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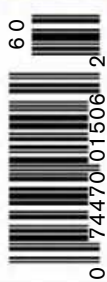


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Oriskany just bolstered its lineup with two compact 1911s. *By Steve Sieberts*

THE COVER:

Image: Henry DeKuyper

Design: Eric Knagg

Gun: Oriskany Arms

Subject: Drew Pruhs

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RANGE NOTES

As I write this, the echoes of the gunfire from the tragic and senseless shooting at the Umpqua Community College in Oregon have barely stopped reverberating across the country. Another sick and twisted individual has inflicted great pain and suffering on the innocent people of a small, close-knit community for reasons that we will never fully comprehend.

The events in Oregon, the streets of Chicago, and other places in America where violence occurs, should demonstrate that we have to remain vigilant. Always be aware of other people and of your surroundings. This doesn't mean you have to be anxious and paranoid — just remember that situations can deteriorate rapidly and awareness is key. Violence is not confined to inner-city neighborhoods.

The decision to carry concealed takes a great deal of careful thought and introspection. After all, you, as a CCW holder, are taking on a huge responsibility. By obtaining a CCW, you're stating that you're willing to take a human life in order to protect and defend yourself, your loved ones, and the lives of other innocent bystanders. Once you've made that decision, get the best equipment and training you can afford.

The stakes could not be higher.

Regards,
Steve Sieberts, Editor

Steve Sieberts has over 40 years in the firearms field, including 17 years as a professional gunsmith, 4 seasons with the Army Marksmanship Unit and 10 years as a Chief Gunsmith for a classified DoD facility. He has achieved the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, the NRA 2600 Club pin and the President's Hundred Tab. He has been writing about firearms for many publications for over 20 years.

CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS

WINTER 2015

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www.gunworld.com
www.facebook.com/ConcealedCarryMagazine
www.facebook.com/eembybeckett

CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS is published by Engaged Media Inc., LLC,

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, #200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887.

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STEVE SIEBERTS

Malfunction Drills

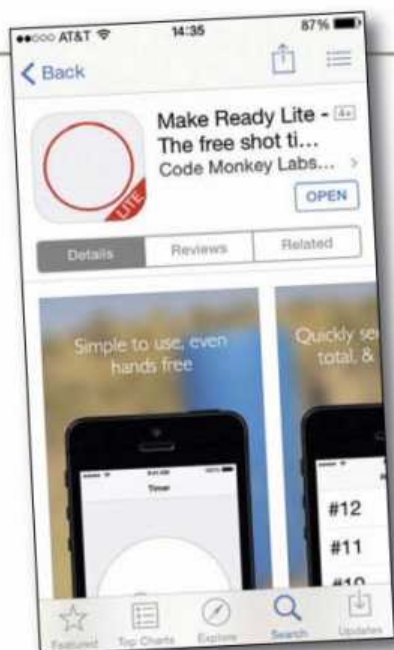
Malfunctions are a part of shooting, and knowing how to deal with them should be a priority for anyone who either carries a concealed handgun or shoots one for sport. In an IDPA or IPSC match, if the gun malfunctions, and you are slow in getting the gun back in action, you could lose the match or at least lose the stage. If your handgun malfunctions in a gunfight, you lose everything. So, besides making sure that

the gun and magazines are properly maintained, and the ammunition has been checked out, Murphy's Law is always lurking around the corner, and as the saying goes, "stuff" happens.

There are many types of malfunctions, but the main point of clearing one is first identifying what type of malfunction it is. In the picture, the gun is completely tied up with a double feed. Notice how the shooter

(professional competitor, Mike Foley) keeps the pistol in front of the eyes and pointed in a safe direction, so the malfunction can be identified, the gun properly cleared, recharged, and quickly put back into action.

To clear the pistol, the magazine must be stripped from the gun, the slide cycled several times to ensure all ammunition has been removed, then a fresh magazine inserted and the slide cycled again to recharge the gun.



Make Ready Lite - Free Shot Timer

Version: 1.4.2

Publisher: Code Monkey Labs, LLC

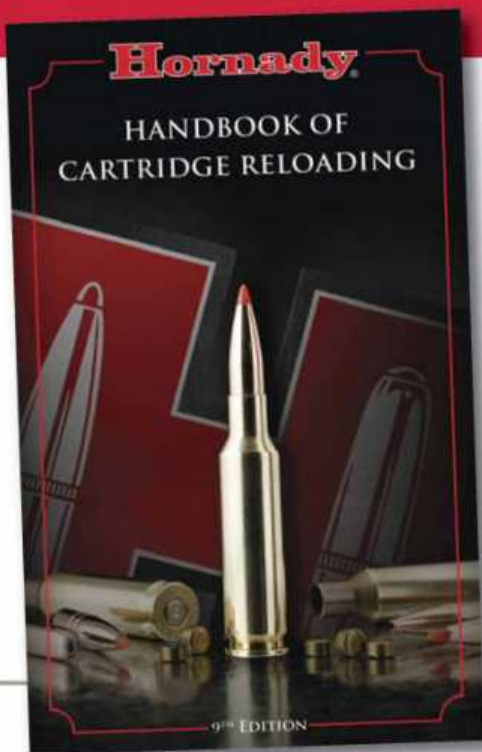
Web: Apple Apps Store

MSRP: Free

In the common parlance of the day, if you can think of it, you can bet there's an app for it, and so it is with shooting and technology. Shooters love to embrace new technologies if they are useful and they work — and Make Ready Lite meets both requirements.

The app is the free version of the popular shot-timer application, and is a go-to app when I'm at the range and just want to run through an informal drill or check on some reload times for example, since I always have my phone on me, and I don't have to run back to the range bag for the timer. It's easy to use, and includes shot total, split times and more. Best of all, it's free and it works, what more do you need?

The handy Make Ready Lite app, available for the iPhone, iPad, and iPhone touch, requires iOS 7.1 or above.



Hornady® Handbook of Cartridge Reloading: 9th Edition

Publisher: Hornady

Web: www.Hornady.com

MSRP: \$40.00

The 9th Edition of Hornady's "Handbook of Cartridge Reloading" offers up a wide variety of information for the serious reloader. Coming in over 900 pages, it covers the complete Hornady line of handgun bullets like the XTP, the HAP, and the XTP. The manual has velocity and powder charts for easy reference.

Of course, the savvy reloader will have more than one reloading book just to be able to cross reference any load data, especially when dealing with max loads. Many concealed carry handgunners are also competitive shooters, so reloading makes a lot of sense. You can't go wrong with this book on your reloading shelf. Hornady also offers the 9th Edition as an ebook in the Apple iTunes bookstore, and in the Kindle bookstore.



Lyman Electronic Trigger Pull Gauge

Company: Brownells, Inc.

Web: www.Brownells.com

MSRP: \$67.99

Hiring a professional gunsmith can be expensive, and rightly so. Some shooters want to learn how to work on their own firearms and gunsmithing is a great way to save a few bucks, get into a fun and rewarding hobby, and it's an opportunity to really learn how firearms work.

But if you do a trigger job on your 1911 or drop in a 3.5-pound aftermarket trigger con-

nector on your Glock, how do you know it really is 3.5 pounds? Granted, it probably is, but manufacturing tolerances being what they are, it could be above or below the stated range. Additionally, sometimes springs and parts wear out and the pistol that once had that magnificent "breaks like glass" trigger pull now feels like you're pulling the trigger through a pit of quicksand and cinderblocks.

With the Lyman Electronic Trigger Pull Gauge, you can know for sure. The Lyman gauge delivers 1/10-ounce accuracy from trigger pulls from 1 ounce to 5 pounds, and to 1/2-ounce accuracy from 5 to 12 pounds of trigger weight. Additionally, the Lyman gauge lets the shooter take up to 10 readings and average them, and can display results in both English and Metric Units. **CC**

QUICK & EASY

This is the final product after adding all the accessories to the G19. Both the front view and rear-side view show off the various changes that were made, and it turned out to be a slick little package overall.



MODIFICATIONS

Enhance Your Pistol's Accuracy and More With This DIY Project

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GARRETT LUCAS



This set of Aro-Tek tools were purchased to work on the Glock, and the nut driver will be used to remove the tiny hex screw at the front end of the slide.



Now that the factory front sight has been removed, it's time to reverse the process and install the new front sight from the TruGlo TFX series.



Here is the almost-completed front sight installation. From here, we need to go back and make the sight straighter and make sure the hex screw is securely in place.

“... this article isn't for expert gunsmiths ... It's for people like me who aren't mechanically inclined ...”

I recently went on a binge of pistol purchases, and I picked up a few masterpieces from the '70s and '80s.

The sights needed to be replaced, so I had a local gunsmith install them. After a few payments to the gunsmith, especially with the last job being fairly lousy, I decided it was enough. It was time to do it myself.

Now, this article isn't for expert gunsmiths or even the semi-advanced tinkerer. It's for people like me who aren't mechanically inclined or who are just sim-

ply new to the learning process.

My thoughts settled on an article about how to enhance a Glock 19 with simple add-ons or changes. Most of what I'm concerned with in this article is enhancing the comfort of the Glock's feel, improving the sights, replacing the barrel for better accuracy and adding a laser. These things will help improve the handling of the pistol and will help assist with better sight acquisition and provide much better accuracy. We'll call this Step One.

Let's look at the next steps.

TRUGLO TFX SIGHTS

The first thing I started on was replacing the front and rear sights. The Glock 19 had to be fieldstripped, with the slide free of the barrel and recoil system. Once that's done, the slide is usually sitting bottom-side up. At the front end of slide, you will see a very tiny hex screw that is used to hold the front sight in place. That has to be undone to take off the front sight.



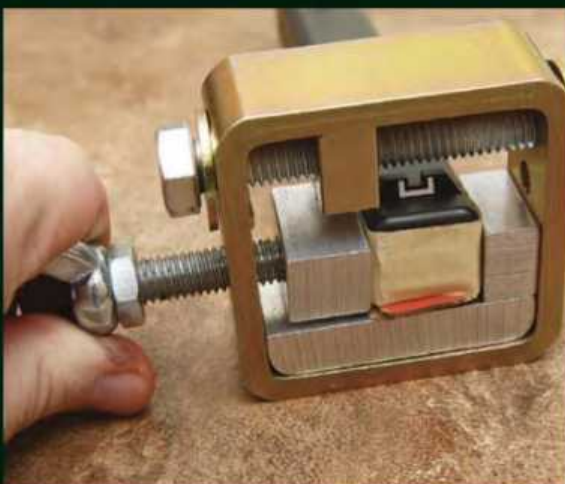
Now it's time to install the rear sight, and the tools used are a socket wrench and the Universal Handgun Sight Tool from Fisher Solutions. The cardboard pieces are to elevate the slide to line up the sight with the sight pusher.



Before putting the slide into contact with the metal blocks in the sight pusher, I used several layers of masking tape on the rear portion of the slide to protect the finish.



The second step is to start turning the bolt, and when you meet resistance, use a socket wrench to push the rear sight completely out.



Now, the rear sight is out and the slide is ready to accept the new sight. Just slide the new sight into the dovetail as far as you can, and then mount the slide inside the sight tool again.



Since the slide is already off, the next and easiest step is to swap the barrels before you put the pistol back together. The Wilson Combat barrel may need a little file work if the fit is off, but this one dropped in and fit perfectly.



Here, we have a view of the new TruGlo TFX sights installed on the Glock sight. You'll notice the front sight is easy to acquire with its green color (the most visible color for humans) and the white outline.



Next up was the TruGlo Micro-Tac laser. The package had the necessary tools for installing the unit and for making elevation and windage adjustments.



While built nicely and with easy activation of the laser, the TruGlo Micro-Tac didn't seem right for this particular pistol. Glock's own "universal" rail prevents the Micro-Tac from moving back closer to the trigger guard. The Micro-Tac will work fine on compact and sub-compact pistols with a true Picatinny rail system.

A little while ago, I visited www.Brownells.com and purchased a three-piece Glock Armorer's toolkit, made by Aro-Tek. This kit is specifically for working on Glock pistols, but it has actually come in handy on working on several other guns. Included in the kit is a 3/16-inch hex nut driver, a .050-inch Allen wrench for working on the rear sight and a 3/32-inch punch used for taking down the entire pistol.

Once the hex nut is undone and out of the slide, you punch out the factory front sight and then replace it with your sight choice; in this case it was the TruGlo TFX (Tritium Fiber) night sights. The TruGlo sight comes with its own hex screw. Set aside the factory screw, and use the screw that comes with the new sight and reverse the process. Insert the sight, and then set

the screw, make a couple of adjustments and you're through. Some people like to use a very small amount of liquid adhesive on the screw threads in order to make sure the screw doesn't back out through repeated firings.

UNIVERSAL HANDGUN SIGHT TOOL

To change out the rear sight, I used the Universal Handgun Sight Tool I bought from Fisher Solutions at www.SightPusher.com. I chose that one because it's relatively compact and easy to use. I can take it to the range and use it there to make adjustments to my point of impact. The current MSRP is \$59.95.

To prep everything to replace the rear sight, I put three layers of masking tape on the part of the slide where the clamping

blocks would come into contact. That helps prevent damaging the finish. The company's website doesn't show this step in their pictures, but believe me, this is a step you want to take.

Also, every slide height is somewhat different, so you need to use shims to raise the sight high enough for the pusher's "claw" to clear the actual slide, but still grab the rear sight. I just use pieces of cardboard to get the height properly set. Once done, you insert the rear of the slide into the sight pusher, and then clamp the blocks against the slide by turning the large wing nut on the bottom.

After the slide is locked in, double check to make sure the pusher claw is lined up with your sight. If you're satisfied with the positioning, start moving the pusher claw with a socket wrench until it



Installing the Talon Grip on the Glock 19 was the next step in the process.



Once you've got a feel for how the grip should line up on the G19's handle, clean the handle with the provided alcohol swabs, let it dry, and then peel off the backing off the Talon Grip.



An important part of the process of installing the Talon Grip is to loosely wrap the grip around the Glock's handle without stretching it too tightly.



Here is the finished grip after it was wrapped, heated slightly with a hair dryer, and the entire surface and edges were pressed firmly to be set in place.

comes into contact with the sight and then pushes the sight out of the dovetail.

Replacing the rear sight is pretty much the same process. You simply flip the sight pusher around, because you're going to be pushing the new sight in, and then you set the replacement sight into the dovetail as far as it will go. From there, the process is the same; you clamp the slide with the blocks, and then start turning the bolt again until you have the new sight centered on your slide. It's a good idea to remove any type of dovetail sight by pushing the sight out from left to right, as you

are looking at the slide from the rear, and replacing the new sight back into the dovetail from right to left. This is how dovetails are fitted and not doing it this way runs the risk of enlarging the dovetail, making subsequent sight installations looser. Once you get to the range, you'll need to make adjustments there for windage, but it's quite simple to do.

WILSON COMBAT MATCH BARREL

Because we already have the slide open and clear at this point, this was the

best time to insert the 4.02-inch match barrel from Wilson Combat. Wilson's website claims less than two inches at 25 yards with good ammo. Also, the barrel has conventional rifling, as opposed to the polygonal rifling from the factory, and it has a fully supported chamber.

After reading up on the barrel, I saw that, because of different gun dimensions, some users might have to do "very minor material removal" so the barrel will seat properly. That's when beads of sweat popped up on my forehead. I could just imagine a big pile of metal shavings on



Federal sent a supply of 9mm in to assist with the upgrades and test the difference between the regular version of the pistol and the enhanced version.

the floor and a 3.5-inch barrel instead of 4.02 inches. But, it turned out the match barrel was a perfect fit, and no material removal was required. If there is material to be removed from the barrel slide interface and you feel adventurous, you can use an India stone to remove a slight bit at the front shoulder of the barrel where it locks into the slide. There is a flat spot on the bottom of the barrel where it locks into the locking block that may need to be slightly fitted as well. Use the stone a bit, and then use a marker to mark the high spots and try the barrel again in the slide,

then stone more if needed. Go slow and use the “stone and try” method. Usually with these “drop in” barrels, they are only a couple of thousandths of an inch off because of manufacturing tolerances, so very minor fitting is required. If you do take off a little more material than required, don’t worry, the gun will still have exceptional accuracy since 90% of the barrel’s accuracy does not come from the fitting, although that certainly helps. The majority of the accuracy comes from the match grade qualities of the rifling’s bore and groove dimensions.

TRUGLO MICRO-TAC LASER

TruGlo sent their Micro-Tac Laser, and it had a nice, bright green laser that was very visible. I kept my dog busy with it for about 15 minutes. The issue I encountered was that the laser unit sat a little too far forward because of Glock’s universal rail system design. It’s not a true Picatinny set-up, so you can’t move the unit back closer to the trigger guard.

The Micro-Tac seemed to be built well, the On/Off buttons were very positive, and as mentioned, it had a nice, clean, strong output. Unfortunately, it



To round out the package, celebrate a bit and make it a functional system, I ordered a CrossBreed Holsters SuperTuck to fit the G19 with the Crimson Trace LG-452. It's an excellent carry system that's both comfortable and stable at the same time.

wasn't going to work for me on this particular pistol. It's better suited for compact or even sub-compact pistols with a true M1913 accessory rail so that it can be set back closer to the trigger guard for easier activation.

TALON GRIPS

While Glocks are fine pistols with a reputation for accuracy and reliability, I think the grips leave a little to be desired. Talon Grips has come up with an alternate solution that I like very much. If you like stickers, well, you're going to feel right at home with their grips.

Talon offers both a granulated grip and a rubberized grip offering for the Glock 19. I opted for the rubberized grip because I felt it would be less abrasive against my cloth-

ing and/or skin. Installation is fairly simple, but you need to make sure you follow the instructions closely.

You start by lining up the edges of the Talon Grip with the left-hand side of the Glock's handle. Once you have a good feel for where it's supposed to start, you clean the Glock's grip surface with the supplied alcohol pads to remove any grease, oil, or dirt that might impede the adhesion process. You then remove the backing from the Talon Grip, once more line the edges up correctly on the left side, and then wrap the grip around the Glock's handle.

Don't yank or stretch the material while wrapping it around. It should fall into place nicely on its own. Once you've come back around the front strap, you

simply lift up the original left side, and place the excess material underneath it. It's an easy install, and I had no problems doing it in just a couple of minutes.

Now, there is one last step. You have to use a hair dryer or heat gun to warm up the entire grip a bit at a time, and press down on the textured material so that it sets in place, especially around all of the edges. This process took about 10 minutes. I probably took a little longer than necessary, but I wanted to make sure I had covered every spot.

CRIMSON TRACE LG-452

The other laser I tried out on my enhanced Glock was the LG-452 laser that mounts to the accessory rail, but also extends back under the trigger guard and

against the front strap with a pressure pad for turning on the laser. I didn't know if the extra material from the Talon Grips would throw off the fit, but it turned out to work just fine with the new grips installed.

I really like the LG-452 from Crimson Trace. It is built solidly and offers a more intuitive way to turn on the laser. There is a pressure-activated button located under the middle finger, so just a normal hold on the grip will turn on the laser. It uses one CR2 battery, and provides over two hours of continuous use of the green laser. It also has a master on/off switch for those times you want to shoot, but don't want to use the laser.

THE FINAL PACKAGE

Overall, I was pleased with how

everything worked out, and how easy the process was. It took about 2.5 hours for me to finish everything, but would have been much quicker if I hadn't needed to check the lighting, take pictures, check the pictures and repeat.

If you're hesitant, like I was, about doing these kinds of things, stop worrying. Do a little research and jump in. The most technical part of this was installing the sights, and that was fairly easy.

As you progress, you might want to think about adding a replacement trigger or a different firing pin, but for now, you've made some significant changes that will improve the handling or your firearm and contribute to its overall accuracy.

Making these changes is a no-brainer. **CC**

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***CARRY* SMART**

From Gun Choice To Holster Options, Key Factors To Consider When Carrying Concealed

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHUCK TAYLOR

Due to escalating concerns about home, vehicle and self-defense in our troubled times, record numbers of citizens are availing themselves of the concealed carry option.

Why? As hard as law enforcement tries, they can't protect everyone, and citizens realize this. Thus, the best solution to the

problem is the concealed weapon, which provides the intended victim the element of surprise.

Study after study shows that the perpetrators of violent felonies do not expect their victims to be armed. Instead, they expect their projection of force, often deadly force, to do the trick — to paralyze their intended vic-

tim into submission.

Many advise never to resist, but the facts show that this is highly dependent upon the crime and not a universally legitimate rule of thumb. For example, if you're a passenger on a commercial airliner being hijacked, then being passive and following the instructions of the hijackers, at least



Even though pocket pistols are easily concealed, they're typically chambered for cartridges that lack stopping power, have either diminutive or no sights at all, and are so small as to make effective grip what some would describe as difficult.



The sub-compact handgun is perennially popular, but remember that its small size, short barrel and reduced sight radius make it a less-than-optimum weapon in the high-speed shooting sequences typical of defensive encounters.

Plainclothes Officers Who Carry

Plainclothes police officers, such as narcotics agents and detectives, have long carried their weapons concealed, because they realize that the element of surprise is important.

They need to circulate unobtrusively among the citizenry to do their jobs and the visibility of the gun, along with the other tools of their trade, prevents this.

initially, is a good idea.

However, if you're a potential rape or armed robbery victim, the statistics show an extremely high probability of your being seriously injured or killed no matter what you do. In instances like this, passiveness is no guarantee of personal safety.

A possible solution is a concealed weapon.

CONCEAL FACTORS

There are quite a few ways to effectively conceal a handgun, but there is no one way that guarantees the best combination of con-

cealment, weapon accessibility and resulting acquisition speed and wearer comfort. There is always a compromise involved in carrying any kind of concealed weapon.

To give yourself the best possible combination of these critical elements, you should first consider carefully the following issues:

CRITICAL ISSUES

1. Ask yourself the following questions: For what contingencies are you carrying your weapon? Under what circumstances will it be used? For example, are you pri-

marily concerned with only personal defense or are your needs more widely based, as a plainclothes policeman's might be?

2. What is your lifestyle? Do you travel in an automobile much of the time? Do you remain seated most of the day? Do you spend most of your time in an air-conditioned environment?

3. Do you spend most of your time in a high-density personnel environment around crowds, or do you go about your daily routines in a more rural setting?

Questions like these are important because they set the ground rules for what kind of concealed carry best fits your needs.

They also determine what kind of weapon and ammunition you use, your ancillary equipment like a holster and spare ammunition/magazine carriers, and the way in which you'll use it.

Let's look at the options.

SHOULDER HOLSTERS, CROSSDRAW RIGS

Generally speaking, shoulder holsters and crossdraw rigs are especially suited for those who spend much of their time sitting down. However, with the shoulder holster, there is a caveat. Because its harness eliminates most of the airflow through your clothing, it tends to be somewhat uncomfortable in temperate climates and is thus at its best in an air-conditioned environment.

Many who wear crossdraw holsters fail to place them sufficiently far back for them to clear the point of the hip, which prevents the holster itself from remaining clear of the pelvic/thigh joint. This is not only a potential safety hazard (because the muzzle of the holstered gun is pointed directly at the joint) but it results in a binding

effect that makes sitting down a drudgery.

ANKLE HOLSTERS

Ankle holsters remain perennially popular, but in truth offer limited utility in that they allow only limited access to the weapon. They are, as a result, slow to utilize in comparison to most other holster designs. Viewed realistically, we find that most of the time, they're used by police officers to carry a second gun, which would only be utilized in the event of them losing their primary firearm — in an act of desperation.

Consider this, too. Because of their very concept, they limit the size and weight of the weapon carried, which usually results in another problem: the use of guns chambered for cartridges that lack sufficient stopping power.

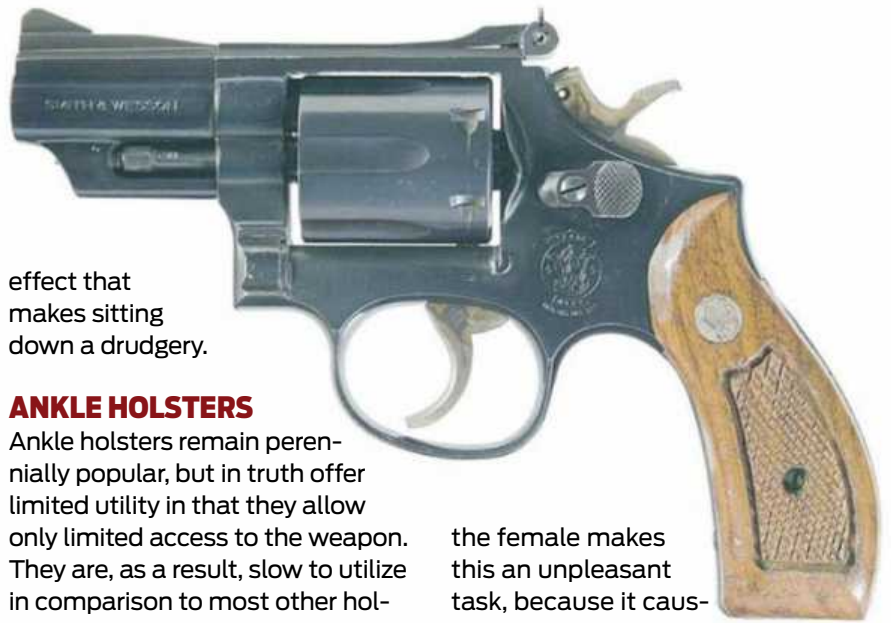
FEMALE CONCEALED CARRY

Seldom do women carry firearms in holsters attached to their waistbands. In fact, the very shape of

the female makes this an unpleasant task, because it causes the gun to point inward, toward the torso, making rapid weapon acquisition and presentation nearly impossible.

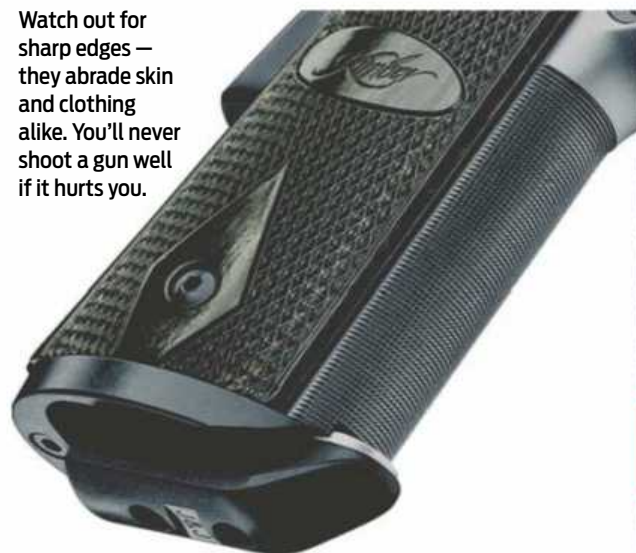
Instead, women carry their guns in other ways, the most common of which is in a purse. Here, however, there's a very real need to insure that the purse is either intended by design to carry a firearm or, if not, at least exhibits a compartment within which it can be carried.

Moreover, having seen what the interior of most purses looks like, it should at this point be added that, whichever is chosen, the compartment should be kept free of any items not directly related to the weapon itself.



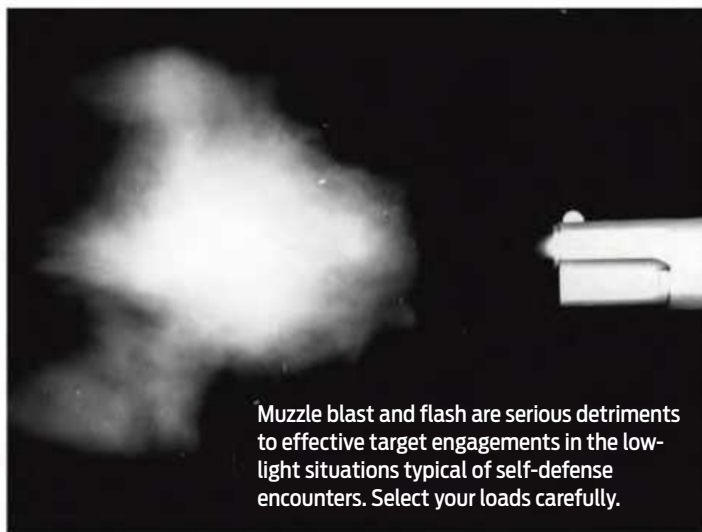
The Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm and .45 are fine choices for concealed carry. Exceptionally user-friendly, accurate and reliable, they're first-rate weapons and fulfill concealment missions very well.

Watch out for sharp edges — they abrade skin and clothing alike. You'll never shoot a gun well if it hurts you.





Outside the waistband (OTW) holsters are by far the most common, but make certain they attach solidly to the belt to avoid pivoting. This Galco rig fulfills that criteria nicely.



Muzzle blast and flash are serious detractors to effective target engagements in the low-light situations typical of self-defense encounters. Select your loads carefully.

GUN CHOICE

Often, the issue of weapon security versus acquisition/presentation speed is discussed, and legitimately so because it's an important issue. However, before you can determine which type of holster is right for you or what specific design within a given

type best fits your needs, be sure to consider the weapon you intend to carry — a heavy-framed S&W .357 or .45 isn't much fun to cart around in an ankle holster or purse.

CONCEALMENT VS. EFFICIENCY

Lately, there is a trend toward

emphasizing concealment more than actual efficiency, and in my opinion, that's a terrible mistake with potentially disastrous consequences. Remember that the reason you're carrying the firearm is to provide you with the means of effectively thwarting an

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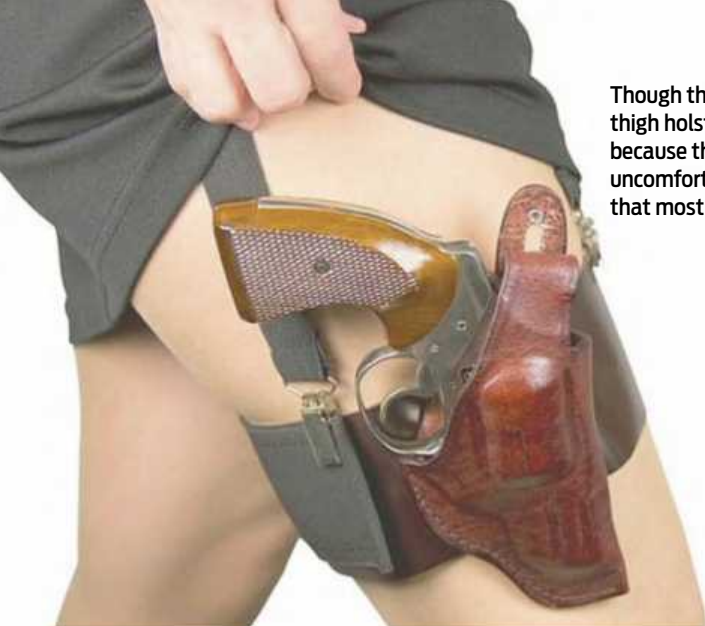
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Though they look good in the movies, thigh holsters should be avoided because they're slow to access, often uncomfortable and less concealable that most women realize.



Ankle holsters are highly specialized and not for general purpose self-defense functions.

unexpected attack under the widest possible variety of circumstances. The handgun must be capable of accomplishing that mission.

The smaller the handgun, the less efficient it can be and the harder it is to use well, especially under the extreme stress of a deadly encounter. The short barrels of compacts and sub-compacts reduce muzzle velocities to the point where reliable JHP expansion is notoriously absent, and the short sight radius and

shortened grip frames so typical of such guns make fast, accurate shot placement almost a Herculean task.

Like it or not, except in the most extreme cases, a full-sized handgun is as easy to conceal as a smaller gun and is in all respects much more efficient. They're also much, much easier to present and utilize effectively under stress.

TAKE TIME TO TRAIN

Do yourself a favor and go to school — a well-known, rep-

utable school that deals with actual gun-fighting techniques and tactics, taught by equally well-known, acknowledged expert instructors, and learn all you need to know to stay out of trouble. There is much, much more to the subject of self-defense handgunning than just weapon handling and shooting.

Of course, as the old adage goes, "Practice, practice and practice some more." After all, your life and, nowadays, your assets depend on it. **CC**

Specialty concealment methods for women, such as this body briefers offer concealment, but at the expense of limiting quick weapon access. Intended primarily for specialized concealment functions, they provide women a viable alternative to purse and waistband carry.

Do Your Homework: The Issue of Liability

With the increased civil liability hazards we face these days, a clear understanding of tactical, criminal and civil liability is essential.

Keep your concealed carry gun as thin as possible. Thick guns are hard to conceal and even harder to grip properly during high-speed presentations and shooting sequences.

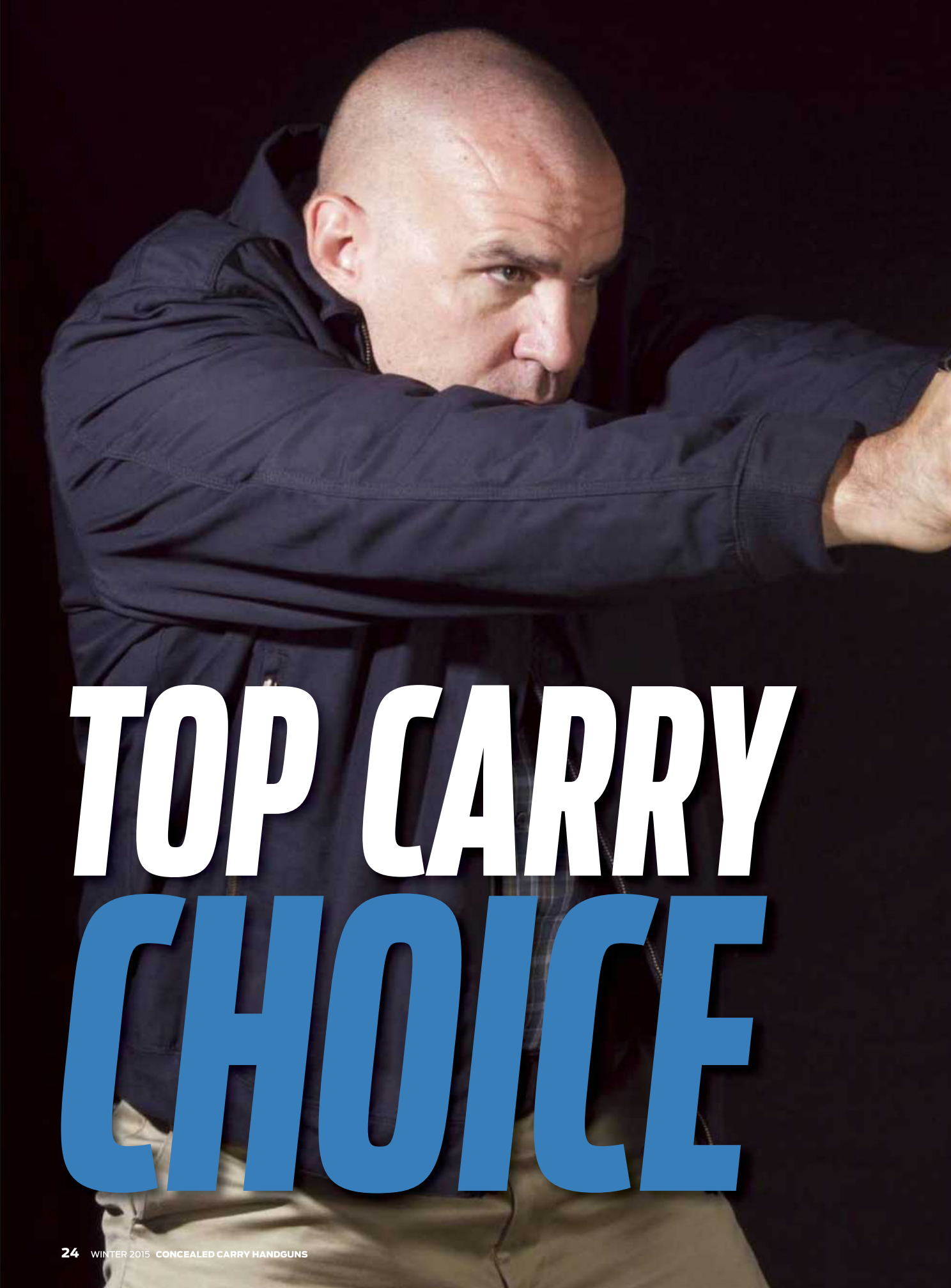




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A man with a shaved head, wearing a dark blue jacket, is shown from the chest up, aiming a handgun with both hands. He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

TOP CARRY ***CHOICE***



Oriskany Arms' 1911 Features Full-Size Capacity Without the Weight

BY STEVE SIEBERTS - PHOTOS BY HENRY DEKUYPER

The Oriskany Arms 1911 entered the crowded 1911 market in a big way three years ago with their full-sized Government Model 500FP series chambered in the venerable .45 ACP.

The full-size guns come equipped with all of the features that are commonly found on virtually all custom 1911 pistols today. Novak fixed sights, Commander-style hammer, high-rise beavertail grip safety, a three-hole trigger and many other custom features come standard on the full-size gun.

So it was fitting to follow up that success with a smaller version aimed at the concealed carry market.

THE OVERVIEW

The 350FP is manufactured from domestic sourced materials and is machined and assembled in the USA. The slide and frame are made from 4140 steel, and the 3.5-inch barrel is a match-grade barrel, constructed from 416 stainless steel.



Specifications

Manufacturer: Oriskany Arms

Website: www.OriskanyArms.com

Models: Traditional 350FP and Traditional 425FP

Frame: Cast from 4140 steel

Slide: Machined from solid ordnance grade 4140 steel

Barrel: Match grade, 416 stainless steel

Barrel length: 3.5 inches for 350FP and 4.25 inches for 425FP

Calibers: .45 ACP, 9mm, .38 Super

Capacity: 7+1

Sights: Novak white dot. Tritium and fiber optic also available

Other features: Skeletonized hammer, 3-hole trigger with set screw, high rise "beaver tail" grip safety.

MSRP: \$829



A CrossBreed OWB holster and magazine pouch make a nice compliment to an excellent carry gun.

“The Traditional ... even [has] some features that you only see on higher-end guns from the custom shops...”

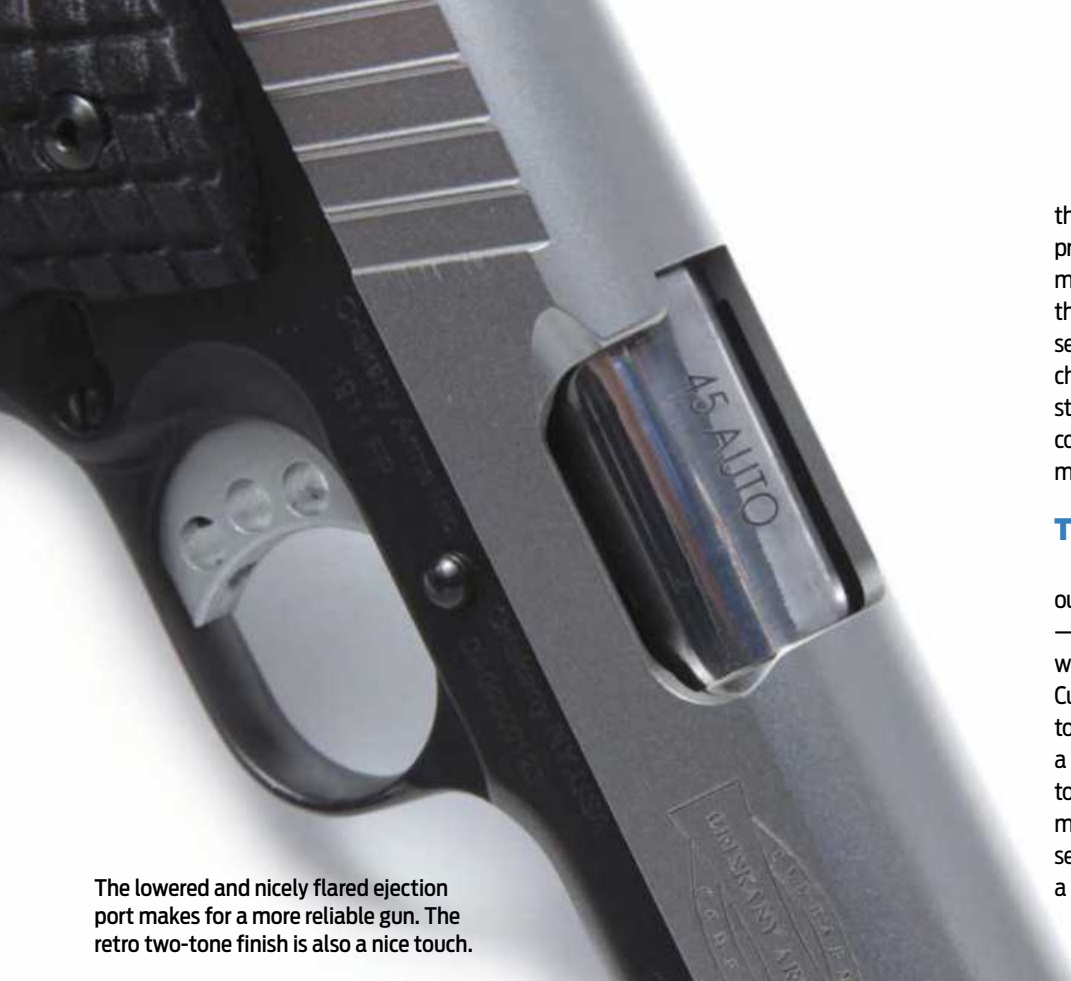
It comes chambered in the same caliber as its bigger brother.

It has the magazine capacity of the full-size gun. Sight options include Novak fixed sights or the popular fiber optic front and rear. The gun comes with a hard case standard, with an optional soft case and a range bag. Some nice optional features available on the gun that are not available on many other custom 1911s are custom serial numbers, as long as it's a number not already taken, and custom laser engraving.

The 1911 350FP will be available in the same three models as the full-size version: Traditional, Custom and Tactical.

THE TRADITIONAL

The Traditional has many of the features you would want in a carry gun, and even some features that you only see on higher-end guns from the custom shops, like front cocking serrations and an extended, strong side thumb safety. Some people like the front cocking serrations and some don't, but they are handy for performing a pinch-check. This is a move I do frequently at an IPSC or IDPA match, where, after letting the slide go forward chambering the first round, I pull the slide back slightly to make sure the slide stripped the first round out of the magazine. It's a little embarrassing to draw the pistol at



The lowered and nicely flared ejection port makes for a more reliable gun. The retro two-tone finish is also a nice touch.

the start signal, engage the target, press the trigger and when the hammer falls, the gun goes click. While this has not happened to me, I have seen it happen enough to always check the chamber before I fire a string in competition. The front cocking serrations make this little move quite a bit easier.

THE CUSTOM

The Custom is available in various finishes with the Cerakote finish — an option that will be popular with a great many shooters. The Custom also has options for a two-tone finish with a stainless slide and a black oxide coated frame. Two-tone guns have been a favorite of mine for many years, and I've had several 1911s with a blued slide and a hard chrome frame.

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The Oriskany features parts that are found on custom guns, but without the custom price. Extended strong side thumb safety, Commander hammer, beavertail grip safety with palmswell, and textured grips round out the package.

“... it has the magazine capacity of the full-size 1911 without the weight and bulk of the full-size 1911.”




The Oriskany pistol comes with a traditional lightweight aluminum trigger fitted with an overtravel stop. All edges are nicely rounded which makes carrying and shooting the gun much more comfortable.

THE TACTICAL

Finally, the Tactical has a Picatinny rail on the frame's dust cover for mounting a variety of accessories. The gun also has tritium night sights and a variety of finishes.

The Tactical Model, as noted, comes in the popular Cerakote finish, which is available in a variety of colors. So instead of an old-school two-tone finish, or a traditional blued finish, the gun can be had in such finishes as zombie green, Corvette yellow, Magpul flat dark earth and SOCOM blue.

Cerakote has emerged as one of the most popular firearms finishes on the market, and more and more companies are offering this finish as an option. Cerakote is an excellent finish that combines outstanding corrosion resistance, hardness and durability. With Cerakote, the guns' metal parts are usually plated with nickel plating and then the polymer Cerakote finish is applied.



The Commander-length barrel is the bushingless design with a reverse recoil plug and a two-piece recoil spring guide. Also note the Novak dovetail front sight.

Contact Info

ORISKANY

www.OriskanyArms.com

info@oriskanyarms.com

(315) 737-2196

THE 350FP

The Commander-length 1911 makes for a great range gun, especially for people that spend all day on a range; range instructors, for example. Also, the gun is larger and easier to control with heavy duty .45 ACP loads than an Officer's-length gun would, but is smaller and more concealable than a full-size Government model. The other advantage of the Commander-length 1911 is that not only is it more concealable than a full-sized Government Model, and more controllable than an Officer's Model, but it has the magazine capacity of the full-size 1911 without the weight and bulk of the full-size 1911.

These benefits make a pistol like the Oriskany a great compromise, especially if the shooter is limited to owning just one pistol. Take a look at the new compact Oriskany 350FP, one of the models may be exactly what you are looking for. **CC**

Short-Range Accuracy

The shorter barrel does have a shorter sight radius, but this small difference has no effect on the gun's inherent accuracy at the short ranges at which it would be used.

2 More Reasons to Carry

For two reasons, the Commander-length pistol makes a lot of sense for a carry gun.

1 The gun's shorter barrel makes it easier to conceal, especially in the summer months when clothes tend to be thinner and lightweight.

2 Also, the gun's shorter barrel makes the gun's weight less, which is nice for someone carrying the gun all day, every day; those few ounces can make a big difference.

HELL UNLEASHED

FN's New FNS-9 Compact Is An Ideal Concealed Carry Combat Weapon

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GARRETT LUCAS

Finally. Fabrique Nationale (FN) is a company known for its firearms, particularly for those that are built to be used in combat. I have the pleasure of owning a SCAR Mk 17 and have thoroughly enjoyed shooting it and tricking it out with what I want on it. However, I've never had a chance to play with any of their pistols ... until now.

Based on the success of their full-

sized line of striker-fired pistols, FN decided it was time to up the ante by bringing out a compact line of their "S" series pistols. The following review is on their FNS-9 Compact.

SOME PARTICULARS

For a small pistol, particularly one for such a good price, the FNS-9 Compact has everything you could expect in a modern, combat handgun — just in a

smaller package.

The front of the trigger guard is serrated, as is the front strap. The sides of the grip and the back strap are stippled to ensure a sure purchase on the pistol.

The slide has both forward and rear cocking serrations. A small Picatinny rail resides under the front portion of the slide, and I don't think I've seen such a large trigger guard on such a small pistol. This is ideal for shooters who are



Contact Info

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wearing gloves while firing the FNS-9 Compact.

I would say the sights are a standard three-dot configuration, but there's nothing standard about them. The front dot is huge, compared to the rear dots, and the front sight fills up the space between the blades on the rear sight with only a sliver of daylight on either side. The sights are easily visible by those of us whose vision might not be the

best, and the rear sights are of the low-profile variety.

If that's not enough, the FNS-9 Compact comes with interchangeable back straps to accommodate different hand sizes, and it comes with two 12-round magazines and one 17-round magazine. You can get all of this for the street price of about \$470 for the base model, and around \$540 for the one with night sights installed by the factory.

DRY FIRE THOUGHTS

Before I actually took it to the range, I dry-fired it 20-30 times to try the trigger, and I did a few magazine changes as well. These were the two areas that I found weakest about the FNS-9C, but some might see at least one of them as a plus.

First, because the pistol has ambidextrous controls, including the magazine release, this worked against me a bit



Despite its small size, the FNS-9C hosts a full complement of features that you would find in full-size, modern, combat handguns.

“... the FNS-9 Compact has everything you could expect in a modern, combat handgun ...”

when I was doing the mag changes. When I pushed the magazine release with my thumb on the left-hand side of the pistol, the release would push out against my fingers on the other side of the grip. Because of the gun's small size and my large hands, I'll have to develop a method of shifting my grip during magazine changes.

There are several things that contribute to this happening with the FNS-9C. First, the magazine release is almost flush with the grip, and there is a strong spring in the release that gives a lot of resistance when you push. Finally, from about middle of the magazine-release

button it is angled down toward the trigger guard. The rear portion of the release button will not drop the magazine, so you've really got to bring your thumb to where it's almost touching the trigger guard before you can release the magazine. Whew! It's hard to explain, but when you try one out, you'll get an idea of what I'm talking about.

The factory rates the trigger pull at somewhere between 5.5 and 7.7 pounds. The trigger on the gun I received for review broke between 7.2 and 7.5 pounds, depending on where you place the trigger scales “finger.” I personally prefer a much lighter trigger, but I'll hold my opinion

until I get in more range time.

RANGE TIME

I ended up taking the FNS-9C to the range on several occasions. I wanted to get used to the feel of the trigger and figure out which load it liked best. Federal Ammunition provided us with an ample supply of 147-grain, 9mm American Eagle. Not only was it great for practicing with and breaking in the pistol, it was also one of the best loads I tried in the FNS-9C with regard to accuracy.

I've encountered the first-round-flier syndrome on many occasions, and I found it here as well, and it was a bit

more pronounced than most occasions I've experienced previously. At first, I thought it was something I was doing while firing, but every five-shot group I fired had the first round go way off base from the point of aim. At 25 yards, the first shot could be off by 4-5 inches. But, the interesting thing was how accurately the pistol shot the last four rounds.

One five-shot group of Hornady's Critical Defense 115-grain ammunition had four shots clustered within three-fourths of an inch at 25 yards, but the first round hit about 5 inches away. So close, and yet so far! To be fair, at 25 yards, using three-dot sights isn't going to give you the best results, especially with my vision, but on the other hand, I was doing well enough to hold the last four shots of each group fairly close.

It turns out that the trigger wasn't as big of a hindrance as I thought it might be. I think we get so focused in on the extreme and absolute best items or characteristics — like triggers — and we lose sight that it's really a non-issue, especial-

No matter how dirty some of the ammunition was, the FNS-9C chewed through all the rounds we fed it without a single hiccup.



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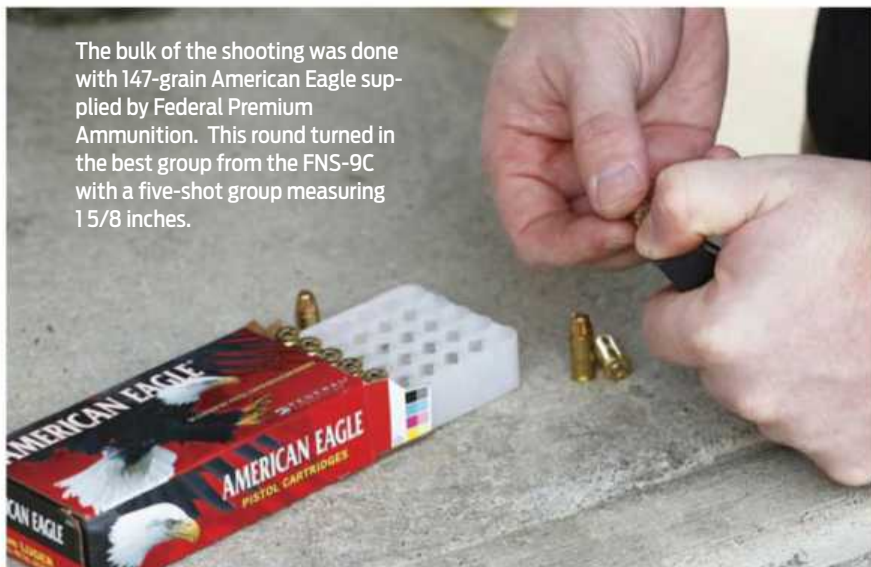
The FNS-9C comes with two 12-round magazines and one 17-round magazine with a sleeve that extends the feel of the grip.



Did You Know?

Currently, the FNS Compact line includes both 9mm Luger and .40 S&W calibers.

The bulk of the shooting was done with 147-grain American Eagle supplied by Federal Premium Ammunition. This round turned in the best group from the FNS-9C with a five-shot group measuring 1 5/8 inches.



ly where it relates to self-defense. The adrenaline will be pumping, and you won't even notice the "heavy" 7-pound trigger pull. In fact, some people may prefer the heavier pull to help prevent an accidental discharge from occurring.

During one range session, the gentleman from the gun shop came out to try the FNS-9C and he absolutely loved it. He shot a fist-sized group out of the center of the target offhand at 10 yards with his own supply of Tula ammunition. That's really all we need isn't it? We often confuse the sport of punching holes with real-world needs for likely self-defense scenarios.

I had about eight types of 9mm Luger ammunition with me during the

various range sessions, and the Federal American Eagle loads were the only rounds I had in the 147-grain range. As mentioned, it shot extremely well out of the FNS-9C, and it got top honors for the best group at 25 yards by coming in at 1 5/8 inches. I don't know if the bullets' weight had anything to do with it, or if the planets aligned just right, but that's a strong showing out of any gun for that distance.

FINAL IMPRESSIONS

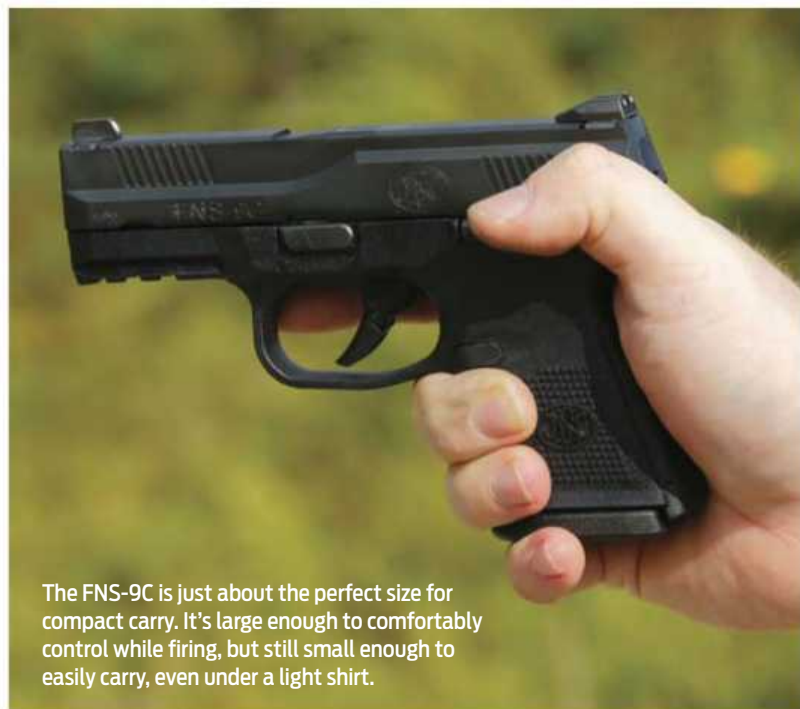
My friends will tell you that I find little things to complain about, and sometimes that's true. I'll grant them that, but just sometimes. However, I stay open-minded enough to have my opinion swayed if the right argument is presented. And, the FNS-9C proved its case to me as plain as day.

I immediately liked all the details about the FNS-9C as soon as I took it out of the box. I won't go so far as to say that it's elegant, with butter-soft ergonomics. It looks like what it is — a combat weapon. Put simply, it's Hell waiting to be unleashed.

I can live with the trigger because it didn't hinder accuracy shooting, so it's not going to prevent me from putting rounds into a vital zone at combat distances. And, I'm already learning a better



This group was shot with a full 12-round magazine from 15 yards. The firing pace was about one round a second, with the first-round flier hitting about two inches low, but still close enough to hit a vital area.



The FNS-9C is just about the perfect size for compact carry. It's large enough to comfortably control while firing, but still small enough to easily carry, even under a light shirt.

Specifications

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Operation: Double-action

Sights: Fixed 3-dot or fixed 3-dot night M1913 accessory rail

Magazine: Two 12-round magazines and one 17-round magazine

Weight: 23.4 oz. (empty)

Barrel Length: 3.6 inches

Overall Length: 6.7 inches

Trigger Pull: 5.5-7.7 pounds

Available in standard and manual safety
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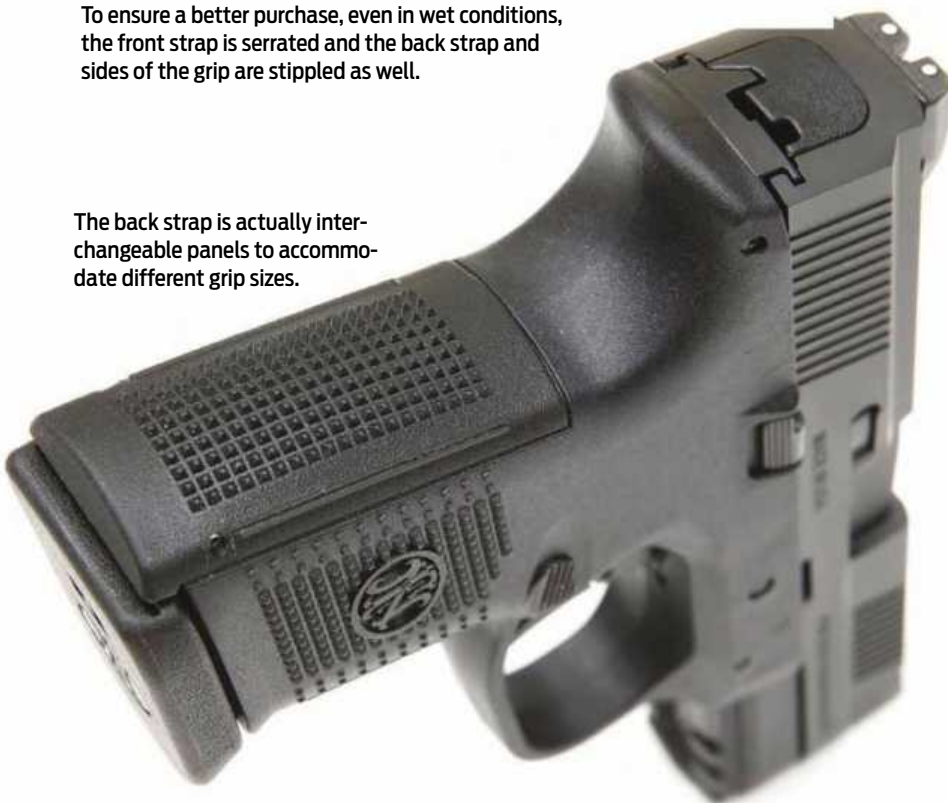
MSRP: \$599



Here, the 17-round magazine is inserted (with sleeve) into the FNS-9C, extending the grip for an even more comfortable hold.

To ensure a better purchase, even in wet conditions, the front strap is serrated and the back strap and sides of the grip are stippled as well.

The back strap is actually interchangeable panels to accommodate different grip sizes.



way to work the magazine release without having to worry about keeping the button from working with my fingers on the other side of the grip. Instead of using my thumb for the release, I'm using my index finger on the opposite side. It can reach the angled, release button easier than my thumb, and it's easier for me to get my thumb out of the way of the release button coming from the other direction. It's working well so far, but it'll take a while to get the muscle memory down so that it becomes an instinctual act.

After a total of five trips to the range,

The front end of the FNS-9C sports cocking serrations, an accessory rail and a serrated face on the trigger guard.



The FNS-9C has a large trigger guard for a small trigger, making it perfect for users with gloved hand. Additionally, you can see how the magazine release is angled down toward the trigger guard, making it tricky to depress quickly.



I am more than satisfied with the performance of the FNS-9C. We ran everything from low-grade to top-shelf ammo through it without a single malfunction. In all, we fired at least 500 rounds through this beautiful little beast, and it was always ready to go again.

The quality, accuracy and reliability this pistol provides for such a low cost makes it completely worth it to work around the minor quibbles (no, those aren't the little furry things on "Star Trek") I had in the beginning. I can adapt to the magazine-release button, and the extra trigger weight really only matters

when I'm at home pulling it one millimeter at a time to wait for it to break.

There's a reason FN garners so many military contracts. They produce quality weapons that operate in the harshest conditions. I've already experienced that quality with my SCAR 17, and I see it again in the FNS-9C.

If you need a concealed carry weapon that's a bit smaller, but you're not looking for a sub-compact either, this is the pistol for you. To say this one is a no-brainer is an understatement. Pick one up and try one out, and then you'll see what the fuss is all about. **CC**

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“The Ankle Glove features a holster built for specific models of gun ... and for right- or left-hand draws.”

When an Officer Put the Galco Ankle Glove To the Test, it Scored High Marks

BY DREW PRUHS

It's the little things in life that make us stop and appreciate where we are and what we have. And it's the little things that a company adds to a product to place it head and shoulders above the competition.

Though it has set the bar for ankle holsters for some time, the Galco Ankle Glove continues as the standard against which all other ankle holsters are measured.

WHAT IT HAS, HOW IT WORKS

The Ankle Glove features a holster built

for specific models of gun, from full-size to pocket pistols, semi-autos to revolvers, and for right- or left-hand draws.

Made from premium steerhide, the holster offers a very snug fit. It also has a retention strap with a reinforced snap thumb break, providing excellent retention.

The holster is affixed to a wide neoprene ankle band (think padded elastic) that raises the comfort level to impressive heights. The band is secured with a wide swath of Velcro to secure the rig to your leg.

Finally, Galco affixes genuine sheep-

skin opposite the holster to increase the padding against your leg and therefore the wearability of the rig.

TEST TIME

For this review I used my Glock 43, with XS Big Dot Express sights. I wore the Ankle Glove for two weeks, one of which I was on vacation and thus doing a lot of walking, and on a range day on which I ran drills that included drawing my backup from different positions.

While preparing to wear the Ankle

Add-Ons Times Two

Two noteworthy available Galco Glove add-ons are the Galco Boot Extender and the Galco Ankle Glove Calf Strap.

While the Ankle Glove fits ankles up to 13-inch circumference, the Boot Extender is available to those with extra imposing ankles or those who regularly wear boots.

The Calf Strap is an option for those who want extra support, and it is especially useful when carrying a heavier weight handgun.

Benefits Outweigh Drawbacks

Ankle carry remains a popular means of discreetly arming oneself. Though never ideal for a primary firearm, it may be a necessity if one is working in a “less permissive environment.” Lauded for the ease of drawing a gun from a seated position, ankle carry is more commonly (or practically) a convenient way to replace a damaged or empty firearm or to arm an ally.

Bottom line: the benefits of having a second gun on scene will often outweigh the inherent drawbacks of ankle carry.

Glove, I was impressed with how precise the leather holster was fitted. The holsters are formed to fit the specific model of handgun you order and the detailed molding adds to the overall retention. The fit was snug, but allowed for a quick draw with minimal resistance — typical of a leather holster.

The thumb break retention strap was expertly fitted as well, and once the gun was fully seated in the holster, the retention strap snapped into place securely.

Having used a different lightweight ankle holster, the first thing I noticed when I strapped the Ankle Glove on was how light it felt. I believe this is a result of the neoprene, which is cushioned and seems to bear the weight better. It was noticeably lighter than the elastic-based ankle holster I was wearing just prior.

Additionally, it felt like the entire rig was cushioned as I walked around; in fact, it got to the point that I simply forgot it was there during daily activities.

RANGE DAY

For my range day, I worked drawing my backup while grounded on my back



and side, kneeling, standing and while seated.

I primarily ran the Ankle Glove in the orthodox method, on my support side leg. I also ran it reversed on my strong side leg, as that is a method preferred by some. While I was able to draw it reliably from either position with my strong hand, I found that due to the nature of carry, with the holster snug against my leg, my draw became a two-step process.

While on my leg, I was unable to obtain a full firing grip on the gun. Instead, I was

able to get a partial hold of the gun so that I could first angle the gun away from my leg. I then was able to get my full firing grip, release the thumb strap and draw. It is not the most efficient draw, but it is something I am content with considering the role of a backup weapon, and something that seems unavoidable when it comes to ankle carry.

HIGH SCORES

The bottom line? The Galco Ankle Glove is a premiere ankle holster. While it is lightweight, the perceived weight should put it in the featherweight category.

The molded leather holster and retention strap combine to offer excellent retention for keeping the gun in its holster.

It provides a stable platform from which to draw, but most importantly, it is comfortable. It is comfortable to the point that I look back at my time with my previous ankle holster and regret not getting an Ankle Glove sooner. **CC**

Drew Pruhs works for a Southern California-based law enforcement agency.

Full Circle

Here is a little disclosure on my part: I bought a Galco Ankle Glove for a Glock 26 years ago. I was excited to get it, and though it performed as advertised, I was disappointed, as it did not work for me. The combination of the weight of the gun and wearing low top shoes was not ideal.

I later learned that either day hikers or a calf strap would have solved that problem. As a result, I have a near-new Glock 26 Ankle Glove in my box of stuff.

Years later, with the release of the Glock 42 and more recently the Glock 43, I have found my desire to carry a secondary gun more easily accommodated. With the Ankle Glove I can now do so with maximized comfort.

4 Specs Your Holster Needs

- 1 Lightweight
- 2 Stable platform
- 3 Provides retention
- 4 Comfort

Author's Note: The Galco Ankle Glove gets high marks in all of these categories.



1911

DO'S AND DON'TS

Essential Maintenance and Safety Checks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STEVE SIEBERTS

The 1911 pistol is one of the most iconic, most celebrated and most used pistols in the free world, and for good reason; the pistol can be made extremely accurate, is supremely reliable and being an all-steel gun, is almost infinitely customizable.

Surprisingly, even though the pistol has been a mainstay of competition and defensive use for over a century by soldiers, law enforcement and civilian CCW holders, it still has many aspects and quirks that are unknown by many shooters — even by shooters that have used the gun for decades. In the

following story, we'll discuss essential maintenance and safety checks.

DO A THOROUGH SAFETY CHECK

As with any gun, the 1911 has several safeties, some visible and actively engaged and disengaged by the shooter, and some that are invisible and work without input from the shooter. Anyone that owns a 1911 should know not only how to use the gun's safeties, but also how to check whether the safeties are functioning correctly, and more importantly, whether they are starting to wear and

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK



1. Checking the trigger pull with an electronic gauge like the Lyman gauge helps identify potential problems. **2.** Checking the grip safety is critical. Point the pistol toward the ground, and without depressing the safety, attempt to press the trigger, then slowly pull the hammer back — there should not be a click when pulling the hammer back. **3.** Apply the thumb safety, press and release the trigger, and disengage the thumb safety. The hammer should not fall. Now slowly pull the hammer back — there should be no click. **4.** Check the disconnect by cocking the hammer, then pushing the slide back so the barrel drops out of battery. Notice how far back the slide is. Press the trigger and let the slide go forward. Keeping the trigger pressed, rack the slide, and release the trigger, then press the trigger. The hammer should only fall at the last step.

could potentially stop functioning.

Examining the safeties of any pistol starts with the gun in an unloaded condition. In my shop, I do all gunsmithing work on a single workbench that is never allowed to have any live ammunition on or near it. This ensures that there is as close to a zero percent chance as possible that a live round will find its way into any gun on the bench.

The Series 70 1911 has four active safeties, five if you consider the shooter's trigger finger. These are the thumb safety, the grip safety, the disconnect, and the

half-cock notch. The Series 80 has an additional firing pin block safety that we won't address here.

Thumb Safety: Many people assume that the way to check this is to cock the hammer, flip the safety up, squeeze the trigger and if the hammer doesn't fall, it's good to go. But that's only half of the check. You also need to determine whether it's too short to head off any problems down the road.

With the hammer cocked and the safety engaged, press and release the trigger and then disengage the thumb safety — the

hammer should not fall. Now slightly pull the hammer back, if you hear a click, the thumb safety is too short and should be replaced. The sound you are hearing is the sear resetting against the hammer. The thumb safety blocks sear movement. As a quick fix, have your pistolsmith peen the stud on the thumb safety to lengthen it a little. This is only a stopgap until a permanent fix can be performed.

Grip Safety: This check is similar to the thumb safety. Cock the hammer, and point the pistol toward the ground without



There should be a slight gap, usually about .030-.040-inch between the mouth of the feed ramp on the barrel, and the feed ramp on the frame. This is an area where amateur pistolsmiths attempt to fix feed malfunctions. They see the gap and try to remove it, thinking that will fix it, when actually that will make it worse.

depressing the grip safety. This checks the right-hand leaf of the sear spring for proper tension. If the grip safety falls to the point that the safety is disengaged, there should be more tension on the sear spring leaf. Press the trigger hard and release it. Now pull the hammer back slightly and if you hear a click, the grip

safety is too short. The grip safety stops the rearward movement of the trigger against the disconnecter paddle and sear feet. If the grip safety is too short, it's allowing the trigger to move the disconnecter and sear. Too much wear and the safety will not function correctly. As with the thumb safety, if the grip safety is too

short, the pistolsmith can peen the arm on the grip safety to lengthen it, but again, this is only a stopgap measure.

Disconnecter: This check is a little more difficult, but is probably the most important, because the disconnecter keeps the pistol from firing if the barrel is out of battery. Keep

Never polish the top of the disconnecter to try to make the gun function better. The disconnecter has to be an exact length. Polishing it will shorten it, and create a dangerous situation.



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“Anyone that owns a 1911 should know not only how to use the gun’s safeties, but also how to check whether the safeties are functioning correctly...”



The barrel link is a common area that can cause malfunctions. If the link is replaced with a link that is too long or too short, it can cause all kinds of feeding issues.

Adjust the Extractor Tension

The extractor tension is easily adjusted by slipping a dummy cartridge under the extractor groove and up against the breechface. Then roll the slide around and see if the cartridge falls out. It will flop around a little but should stay in place. If it's too loose, then it needs to be bent slightly one way or another to make it tighter or looser. To remove the extractor, depress the firing pin, and slide out the firing pin stop. Be careful, the firing pin is under spring pressure. (Always wear eye protection when working with springs under pressure.) Push out the extractor halfway, then you can bend it one way or another. Once you've bent it to give more or less tension, try it in the gun, and adjust accordingly.



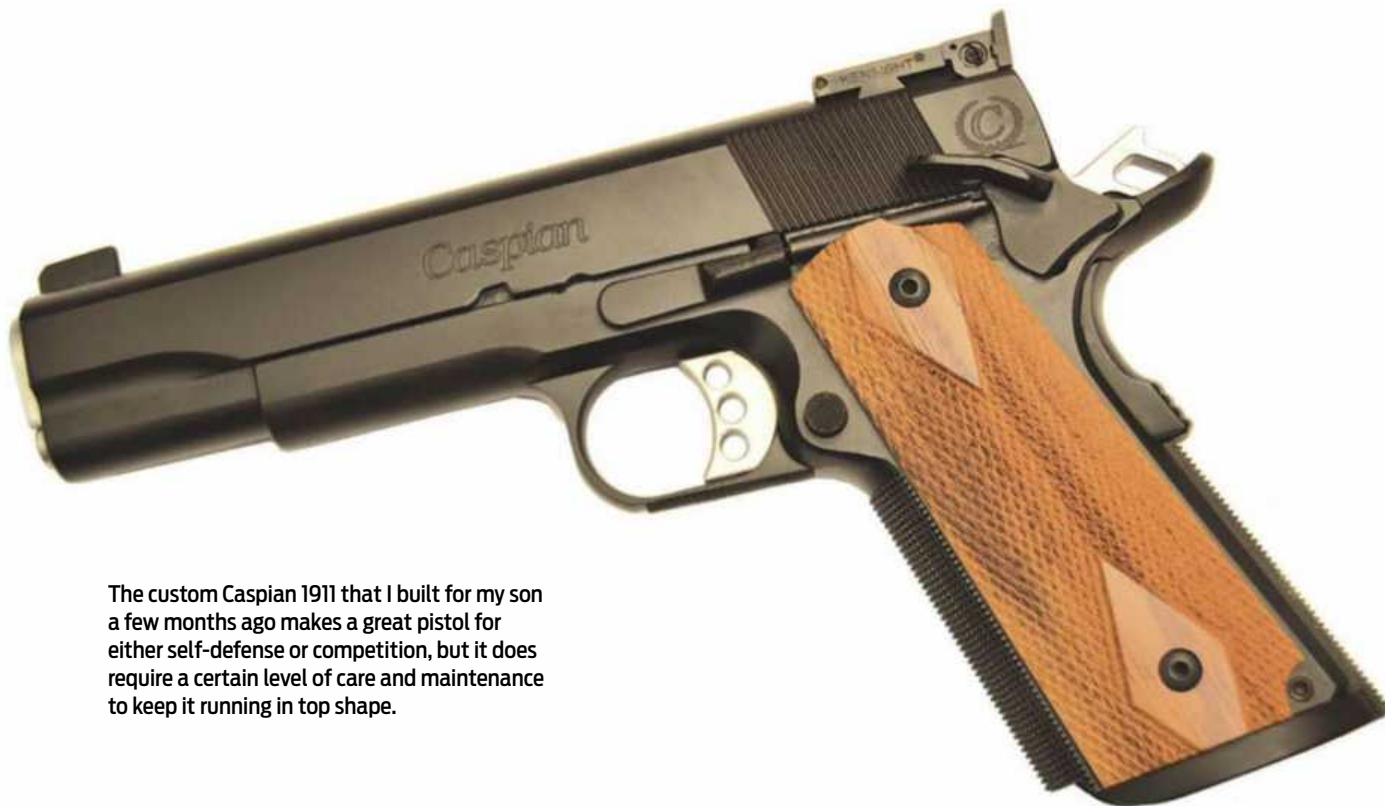
pressing the trigger throughout this exercise. Again, double check to make sure the pistol is unloaded. With the palm of the left hand, push the barrel back until the barrel drops out of battery and squeeze the trigger, then, while still keeping the trigger pressed, let the slide go forward. The hammer should stay cocked. Still keeping the trigger pressed, cycle the slide fully once. The hammer should stay cocked. Release the trigger fully, the hammer should stay cocked, then press the trigger, and the hammer should drop normally.

Half-Cock Notch: This test

is easy, since the half-cock notch is really a last line of defense for the pistol. With the hammer at rest, manually thumb the hammer back to just past the point where you hear the click of the half-cock notch, then release the hammer. It should fall to half cock and be captured there. I usually only do this once, since it's pretty hard on the primary and secondary sear angles.

NEXT: THE SLIDE

One of the most harmful things you can do to any pistol is to drop the slide on an empty chamber. Some guns are more tolerant of it than others, but we'll focus



The custom Caspian 1911 that I built for my son a few months ago makes a great pistol for either self-defense or competition, but it does require a certain level of care and maintenance to keep it running in top shape.



The needle oiler puts just a small amount of oil right where I want it. Remember, with lubricating oil, less is more. A little drop on the barrel hood at the locking lugs will lube the top lugs and reduce wear.



The extractor tension must be adjusted for best functioning. Too tight and the gun will have difficulty feeding, too loose and the gun could smokestack, especially if the recoil spring is getting weak.

on the 1911. If you've ever been to a gun show, you will see many shooters commit this faux pas.

What many shooters do, even those that have used the 1911 pistol for decades, is lock the slide back, check the chamber, and then hit the slide release and let the slide slam home. **DO NOT DO THIS!** It's very damaging to the gun, especially if the pistol is a match grade gun or customized with a trigger job. When the slide

slams home and stops, inertia forces the hammer down on the sear nose, it then bounces off, and comes back down to rest in position. This bouncing utterly destroys a good trigger job by the pounding of the hammer hooks and those carefully honed primary and secondary or escape sear angles your pistolsmith spent hours getting right. Not only is it hard on the hammer hooks and sear engagement sur-

faces, but it's also just generally hard on all of the interworking parts, such as the barrel and breechface of the slide, and the barrel link and slide stop pin.

It's acceptable to use this procedure if you are loading a live or dummy round, because the act of feeding the round up the feed ramp and sliding it under the extractor cushions the slide action. Never do this with an empty gun. Often, when the

“... even though the pistol has been a mainstay of competition and defensive use for over a century ... it still has many aspects and quirks that are unknown by many shooters ...”

Keep It Clean 3 Steps to Smooth Shooting

Finally, a couple of tips to keep the gun functioning and to keep it clean.

1 There are many types of lubricating oils on the market, and everyone has their favorite. All I will say is: less is more. Keep lube to a minimum for best results.

2 I apply a drop to the slide and frame rails, a drop on the end of the barrel to lube the fitted barrel bushing, and a drop on the barrel hood, to lube the upper locking lugs when the slide is cycled and a drop on the hammer.

3 To finish, I use coated Dewey cleaning rods on all of my precision rifles, and I have one for my match pistols as well. Do I need one for all guns? No, but I do use them on all of my guns that I have installed and fitted match-grade barrels to, or on firearms where I care about accuracy. The coating on the rod keeps the rod from scratching the lands and grooves of the barrel, which can destroy accuracy.



The Dewey coated cleaning rod and bronze bore brush — great ways to clean a match pistol.



The cleaning jag pushes the wet bore patches through the barrel, and the brush will break the carbon fouling loose. Going back and forth with brushing and patching will clean the match barrel very well.

shooter lets the slide slam home, the hammer will fall to half cock and the first reaction is that there's something wrong with the gun. Actually, the gun is working as it should. If you let the slide slam home on an empty chamber and don't hold the trigger back at the same time, the trigger will bounce back from inertia when the slide goes into battery.

To be clear, ***you should never let the slide slam home on an empty chamber***, but if you insist on doing so, the only way to do it without damaging the hammer and sear, is to hold the trigger back while letting the slide slam home. When the trigger bounces back, it trips the disconnecter and sear just enough to let the hammer fall before being caught by the half-cock notch. My advice, don't let the slide slam home on an empty

chamber on any gun, specifically the 1911, and especially not on a match grade pistol.

MALFUNCTIONS

The gun also has a few areas of functioning that should be addressed. If the pistol has a feeding malfunction, which is the most common form of malfunction with the gun, the first thing to do is to isolate the nature of the malfunction. Assuming the magazines and ammunition have worked in the gun in the past, then we can rule out those two components as a source of the trouble. I usually look at three areas: the extractor, the barrel and feed ramp, and the barrel link.

Extractor Tension: This is a common reason for feeding malfunctions in the 1911 and is one of the easiest fixes to do. Take a dummy

cartridge, and slide it under the extractor, simulating where the cartridge is if the slide is in battery. Rotate the slide by rolling it around several times. The cartridge should stay under extractor tension. If it doesn't, the extractor is too loose; if the round doesn't flop around a little, the extractor is probably too tight. Adjust accordingly by bending it one way or the other (see sidebar). Also check to see if the nose of the extractor contacts the extractor groove of the case, or if the hook digs into the case.

Barrel and Feed Ramp: This is a common area that causes all types of trouble. If you look at the original drawings for the National Match 1911, there is a .05-inch gap between the feed ramp on the frame and the mouth of the barrel when the barrel is sitting out of



The Lyman Electronic trigger pull gauge is a great way to quickly check the trigger pull on a pistol, but for the best method, I always use a set of NRA dead weights. The plastic roller sits at the center of the trigger and the weights are 2 pounds, 1 pound, ½ pound and ¼ pound. I also have additional weights for double-action revolvers

up to 17 ¾ pounds. These are the same weights used at all NRA matches such as Camp Perry and others. If you are setting up the gun for a 3-pound trigger, for example, the gun should just barely lift and clear the 3-pound weight off of the table. Then, with a slight touch of the finger to the roller, the hammer should fall.

battery and onto the frame bed. Some may see this gap, think it's the cause of the gun's malfunctioning, and then use a tool to grind away the gap from the frame's feed ramp. The gap is necessary for the gun to function correctly. If the grinding is done, the frame is ruined and should be discarded. (The barrel feed ramp may be able to be set back if the frame feed ramp has not been ground too far.)

Barrel Link: Some home hobby gunsmiths attempt to increase the accuracy of the gun by installing a long barrel link to the barrel, thinking that by doing so, it will push the barrel's locking lugs

up into greater contact with the corresponding locking lug recesses in the slide. While it's true that it will push the barrel up higher, it will not affect accuracy in any meaningful or measureable way, since the barrel bore and groove dimensions are not up to match standards anyway, so you shouldn't expect match accuracy. Installing a long link causes the barrel to swing in a wider arc when going through the functioning cycle. By going through a longer arc, the barrel's timing and position of the barrel feed ramp is outside of normal specifications, and malfunctions will result. The center-to-center dimension of a

standard link is .278 inch. At many gun shows, you can buy longer or shorter links. Sometimes you will see numbers 1 through 5 stamped on these links. A number 3 link, stamped #3, is a standard .278-inch link — 1 and 2 are shorter, and 4 and 5 are longer. Always make sure the gun has a standard-length link installed, and don't use the long or short links.

DO KEEP AT IT

This covers the basics.

Hopefully, with a little maintenance and safety checking, you can keep your pet 1911 running smoothly for many years to come. **CC**

[GEAR]

HOT GEAR

One of the best things about getting a new firearm is being able to customize it. With new parts and accessories introduced almost daily, you can enhance almost any gun with new sights, grips, holsters or other equipment.

These items not only improve the gun, but make it more personal, as well. And there's plenty of other gear that makes it easier and just plain fun to get out and go to the range.

So don't forget to stock up on goodies — for your weapon and for yourself.

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK



BLACKHAWK! Diversion Wax Canvas Satchel

Company: BLACKHAWK!

Model: Diversion Wax Canvas Satchel

Website: www.Blackhawk.com

MSRP: \$102

Features: The Diversion Wax Canvas Satchel is an extremely durable bag that contains two loop-lined handgun and accessory pockets. Made from the Army's Duck Wax Canvas, the pack has inside compartments, and 2-inch exterior webbing on the side for external pouch attachment. 11.8-inches H x 10.2-inches W x 2.8-inches D - 427 cubic inches.



Hornady Lock-And-Load Sonic Cleaner 7L 110 VT

Company: Hornady

Model: Lock-And-Load Sonic Cleaner 7L 110 VT

Website: www.Hornady.com

MSRP: \$425

Features: Considered the powerhouse of ultrasonic cleaners, the stainless steel Lock-N-Load Magnum Sonic Cleaner provides triple the size and twice the power of the original Lock-N-Load Sonic Cleaner.



Redding Micrometer Adjustable Crimp Dies

Company: Redding Reloading Equipment

Model: Micrometer Adjustable Crimp Dies

Website: www.Redding-Reloading.com

MSRP: \$63

Features: These micrometer adjustable Redding Micrometer Adjustable Crimp Dies offer precise, .001-inch adjustments specially designed for progressive reloaders, virtually eliminating case crimp variations. Excellent for .38 Special/.357 Magnum and .44 Special/.44 Magnum cases.



BLACKHAWK! Load-Out Bag

Company: BLACKHAWK!

Model: Load-Out Bag

Website: www.Blackhawk.com

MSRP: \$400

Features: The BLACKHAWK! Load-Out Bag is big enough and strong enough to hold 200 pounds of gear. It has nylon construction with lockable zippers.



5.11 Tactical Range Ready Bag

Company: 5.11 Tactical

Model: Range Ready Bag

MSRP: \$101

Website: www.511tactical.com

Features: The Range Ready Bag has a removable ammo tote that keeps ammunition ready. There's plenty of magazine storage, and ample pockets for all accessories. A separate brass tote makes collecting brass easy.

5.11 Tactical APEX Pant



Company: 5.11 Tactical

Model: APEX Pant

Website: www.511tactical.com

MSRP: \$90

Features: The APEX Pant is a low-visibility pant with full tactical capabilities. It carries tactical gear discreetly and has zip cargo pockets.

5.11 Tactical Lucy Tote



Company: 5.11 Tactical

Model: Lucy Tote

Website: www.511tactical.com

MSRP: \$110

Features: The Lucy Tote features a pistol compartment that's ideally placed for quick access. It also includes a concealed inside pocket for wallet and interior clots to hold handcuffs.



Hornady Control Panel

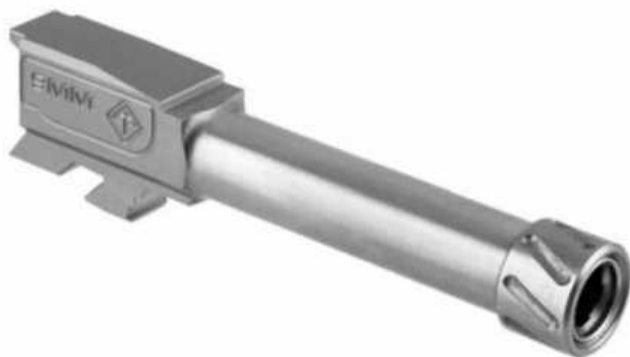
Company: Hornady

Model: Control Panel

Website: www.Hornady.com

MSRP: \$284

Features: The Hornady Control Panel is a digital readout for a progressive reloading press. It allows you to set audible and visual alarms for the primer quantity level, powder hopper level, and primer slide check. The LED panel shows the number of press strokes and other vital information.



ATI Threaded Barrel for Glock 43

Company: ATI

Model: Threaded Barrel for Glock 43

Website: www.Brownells.com

MSRP: \$160

Features: This match-grade drop-in threaded barrel with thread protector is precision engineered with no gunsmithing required. It features a stainless steel finish and is fit for a 9mm Luger cartridge.



Powder River XDS Trigger Kit

Company: Power River Precision

Model: XDS Trigger Kit

Website: www.Brownells.com

MSRP: \$65

Features: The Powder River trigger kit for the XDS pistols includes all the springs that you would find in the Trigger Spring Kit for the XDS as well as a new lightweight sear. It lowers the trigger pull weight and should result in a smooth trigger pull. *(This kit is designed to work on XDS pistols that are manufactured post recall or that have had the recall work performed on them.)*

Dillon Progressive Reloader RL550b



Company: Dillon

Model: RL550b

Website: www.DillonPrecision.com

MSRP: Starts at \$440

Features: The RL550b can reload up to 500 rounds per hour, and makes it very economical to get in a larger amount of shooting, plus the shooter can load specific ammunition for specific needs.



Brownells Versatile Light BVL530

Company: Brownells

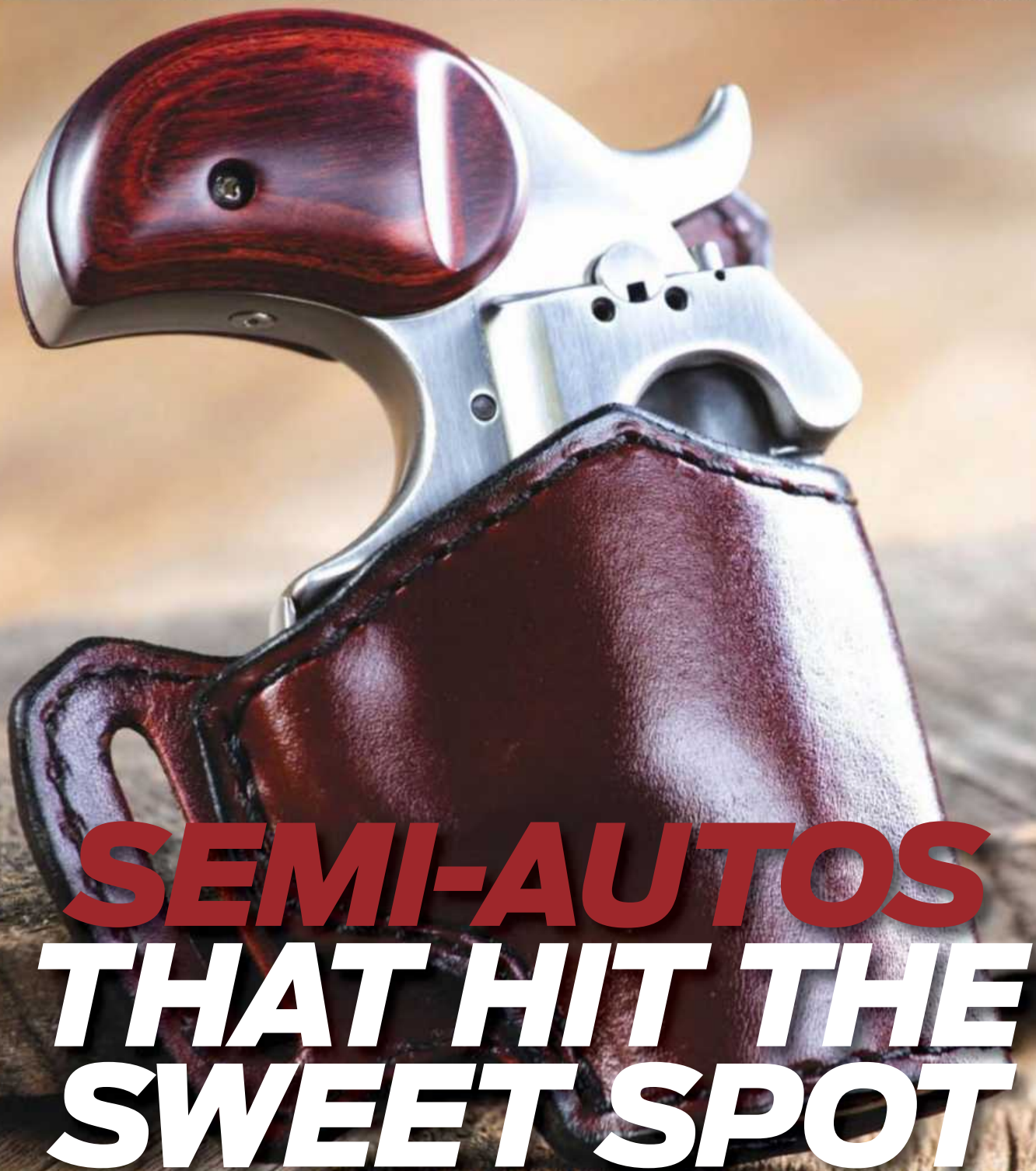
Model: BVL530

Website: www.Brownells.com

MSRP: \$80

Features: The compact, powerful BVL530 emergency light is less than 5.5-inches long, with 520 lumens on the high setting with a strobe feature. It's topped with an emergency strike bezel for self-defense. **CC**

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



SEMI-AUTOS THAT HIT THE SWEET SPOT

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

In our sub-compact semi-auto section, we're covering the full gamut of small and concealable handguns, from the micro to the sub-compact.

These guns are the sweet spot of really compact and portable handguns. Even the smallest of the small are chambered for potent, defensive calibers. The larger sub-compact is large enough to control the really hard-

kicking calibers, and the larger size means they can usually take the pounding of long use with full-power loads.

Sub-compacts can also be fitted with a wide variety of accessories, making them ideal for home defense or as a daily carry gun. With the assortment of sizes and styles, you're sure to find the perfect sweet spot for you.

[MICRO-PISTOLS]

Beretta 21A Bobcat

Company: Beretta

Model: 21A Bobcat

Website:

www.BerettaUSA.com

MSRP: \$410

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .25 ACP

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length: 2.4 inches

Length: 4.9 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Height: 3.7 inches

Weight: 11.5 ounces

Features: The 21A Bobcat has a tip-up barrel, a comfortable grip, and is also available in .22 LR.



American Derringer M7

Company: American Derringer

Model: M7

Website: www.AmDerringer.com

MSRP: \$775

Action: SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 4.8 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Height: 3.3 inches

Weight: 7.5 ounces

Features: Aluminum construction for light weight and automatic barrel selection make the M7 a standout.

Bond Arms Cowboy Defender

Company: Bond Arms

Model: Cowboy Defender

Website: www.BondArms.com

MSRP: \$415

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 Colt, .410 Shotshell

Capacity: 2

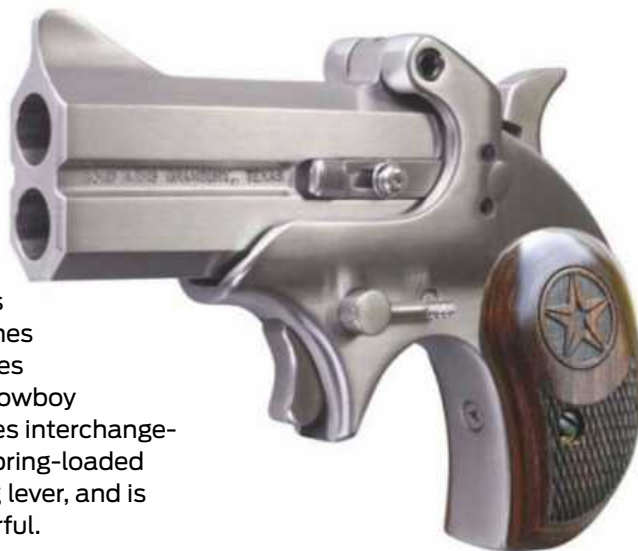
Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 5 inches

Height: 3.75 inches

Weight: 19 ounces

Features: The Cowboy Defender features interchangeable barrels, a spring-loaded cammed locking lever, and is extremely powerful.



[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

Bond Arms Ranger

Company: Bond Arms
Model: Ranger
Website: www.BondArms.com
MSRP: \$634
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 Colt, .410 Shotshell
Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 4.25 inches
Length: 6.25 inches
Weight: 23.5 ounces
Features: Interchangeable barrels, fixed sights, and extremely sturdy construction are all features of the Ranger.



Bond Arms Snake Slayer

Company: Bond Arms
Model: Snake Slayer
Website: www.BondArms.com
MSRP: \$489
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 Colt, .410 Shotshell
Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 3.5 inches
Length: 5.5 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 22 ounces
Features: The Snake Slayer has interchangeable barrels, fixed sights, and an automatic extractor.



Colt .380 Mustang Pocketlite

Company: Colt
Model: .380 Mustang Pocketlite
Website: www.Colt.com
MSRP: \$599
Action: SA
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1

Barrel Length: 2.75 inches
Length: 5.5
Weight: 12.5
Features: A lowered ejection port and a Commander-style hammer are part of this Mustang Pocketlite, which is a 1911 design in very tiny package.



North American Arms Magnum 1 5/8"

Company: North American Arms

Model: Magnum 1 5/8-Inch Barrel w/ Conversion Cylinder & Holster Grip

Website: www.NorthAmericanArms.com

MSRP: \$249

Action: SA

Caliber: .22 WMR

Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 1.63 inches

Length: 5.25 inches

Width: 0.9 inches

Height: 2.9 inches

Weight: 6.2 ounces

Features: This mini Magnum has a Holster Grip that folds under the pistol for maximum concealability. It doesn't "print" as a gun. It also accepts .22 LR cartridges.



Bond Arms Mini 45

Company: Bond Arms

Model: Mini 45

Website: www.BondArms.com

MSRP: \$395

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 Colt

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 4.5 inches

Height: 3.75 inches

Weight: 19 ounces

Features: The Mini 45 features a cross-bolt safety, retracting firing pins, and it's extremely powerful.



North American Arms .380 ACP Guardian

Company: North American Arms

Model: .380 ACP Guardian

Website: www.NorthAmericanArms.com

MSRP: \$449

Action: DAO

Caliber: .380 ACP

Capacity: 6+1

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 4.8 inches

Width: 0.9 inches

Height: 3.5 inches

Weight: 19 ounces

Features: The Guardian is short in height with a stippled grip for control and a 2.5-inch barrel for improved velocity.

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Ruger LCP

Company: Ruger

Model: LCP

Website: www.Ruger.com

MSRP: \$379

Action: DAO

Caliber: .380 Auto

Capacity: 6+1

Barrel Length: 2.75 inches

Length: 5.2 inches

Width: 0.8 inches

Height: 3.6 inches

Weight: 9.4 ounces

Features: This Ruger has a snag-free design for pocket carry, low-profile sights, and seven rounds total onboard. LCP (lightweight compact pistols) are available with LaserMax or CrimsonTrace laser sights.



American Derringer Model 1

Company: American Derringer

Model: Model 1

Website:
www.AmDerringer.com

MSRP: \$705

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 Colt, .410
Shotshell

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 4.8 inches

Width: 1.2 inches

Height: 3.35 inches

Weight: 15 ounces

Features: The legendary Model 1 features automatic barrel selection, hammer block safety, and dual ammunition use.



Beretta Tomcat and Tomcat Inox

Company: Beretta

Model: Tomcat (and Tomcat Inox)

Website: www.Beretta.com

MSRP: \$390

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .32 ACP

Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 2.4 inches

Length: 4.9 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Height: 3.7 inches

Weight: 14.5 ounces

Features: The Tomcat models have the tip-up barrel and a crisp trigger in single action. The Inox model is made of all-weather stainless steel.



Bond Arms Century 2000

Company: Bond Arms

Model: Century 2000

Website: www.BondArms.com

MSRP: \$435

Action: SA

Calibers: .45 Colt, .410 Shotshell

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 3.5 inches

Length: 5.5 inches

Weight: 21 ounces

Features: The Century 2000 features fixed sights, rosewood or laminated black ash grips, and a satin-finished stainless steel frame.



Cobra Firearms C22

Company: Cobra Firearms

Model: C22

Website: www.CobraPistols.net

MSRP: \$185

Action: SA

Caliber: .22 LR

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 2.4 inches

Length: 4 inches

Weight: 9.5 ounces

Features: The C22 has a top-hinged barrel, integral sights, and it's available in many colors.



Cobra Firearms CB9

Company: Cobra Firearms

Model: CB9

Website: www.CobraPistols.net

MSRP: \$187

Action: SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 2.75 inches

Length: 4.7 inches

Weight: 14 ounces

Features: The CB9 also has a top-hinged barrel, integral sights, and is available in an array of colors. It's configured for 9mm Luger ammo.

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Cobra Firearms CB38

Company: Cobra Firearms

Model: CB38

Website: www.CobraPistols.net

MSRP: \$187

Action: SA

Caliber: .38 Special

Capacity: 2

Barrel Length: 3.5 inches

Length: 5.4 inches

Weight: 16 ounces

Features: Like the other Cobra Pistols models, the CB38 has a top-hinged barrel, integral sights, and is available in many colors.

[POCKET GUNS]



Kel-Tec P32

Company: Kel-Tec

Model: P32

Website: www.KelTecWeapons.com

MSRP: \$318

Action: DAO

Caliber: .32 Auto

Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 2.7 inches

Length: 5.1 inches

Width: 0.75 inches

Height: 3.5 inches

Weight: 6.6 ounces

Features: The P32 has a locked breech, it's lightweight, and it has a small grip size and light trigger pull.

Beretta Tomcat

Company: Beretta

Model: Tomcat

Website: www.BerettaUSA.com

MSRP: \$390

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .32 ACP

Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 2.4 inches

Length: 4.9 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Height: 3.7 inches

Weight: 14.5 ounces

Features: Tip-up barrel, crisp trigger in single action, surprisingly manageable recoil



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[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Features: The Ruger LCP has a high quality blued steel or stainless slide, with polymer frame. Some models are available with Crimson Trace Laserguard.

Ruger LCP

Company: Ruger
Model: LCP
Website: www.Ruger.com
MSRP: From \$449
Action: DAO
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.75 inches
Length: 5.16 inches
Width: 0.82 inches
Height: 3.5 inches
Weight: 9.65 ounces



North American Arms Guardian 380 ACP

Company: North American Arms
Model: Guardian 380 ACP
Website: www.NorthAmericanArms.com
MSRP: \$449
Action: DAO
Caliber: .380 ACP
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 4.8 inches
Width: 0.9 inches
Height: 3.5 inches
Weight: 19 ounces
Features: The Guardian features a stippled grip for control, very short height, 2.5-inch barrel for improved velocity.



Colt Mustang Pocketlite

Company: Colt
Model: Mustang Pocketlite
Website: www.Colt.com
MSRP: \$698
Action: SA
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.75 inches
Length: 5.5 inches

Width: 0.9 inches
Height: 3.5 inches
Weight: 12.5 ounces
Features: The Pocketlite is a very popular gun for concealed carry and as a back-up gun. Some models are available with LaserMax.

[SUB-COMPACT GUNS]

Bersa Thunder 380 CC

Company: Bersa
Model: Thunder 380 CC
Website: www.Bersa.com
MSRP: \$323
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3.5 inches

Length: 6 inches
Width: 1 inch
Height: 4.5 inches
Weight: 16.4 ounces
Features: The Thunder 380 CC has a drift-adjustable rear sight, a sculpted grip, and a bobbed low-profile hammer.



Taurus 709 Slim

Company: Taurus
Model: 709 Slim
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$349
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches
Length: 6 inches
Weight: 19 ounces
Features: Low profile fixed sights, an ergonomic design, and snag-free controls are featured in the 709 Slim.



Taurus Millennium G2

Company: Taurus
Model: Millennium G2
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$302
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 12+1
Barrel Length: 3.2 inches
Length: 6.2 inches

Weight: 22 ounces
Features: The Millennium G2 has a compact frame with adjustable rear sight. It also features a loaded chamber indicator, textured grips, an accessory rail for attaching lights and/or lasers, and "melted" edges for comfortable concealed carry.

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Taurus M180 Curve

Company: Taurus

Model: M180 Curve

Website:

www.TaurusUSA.com

MSRP: \$393

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .380 Auto

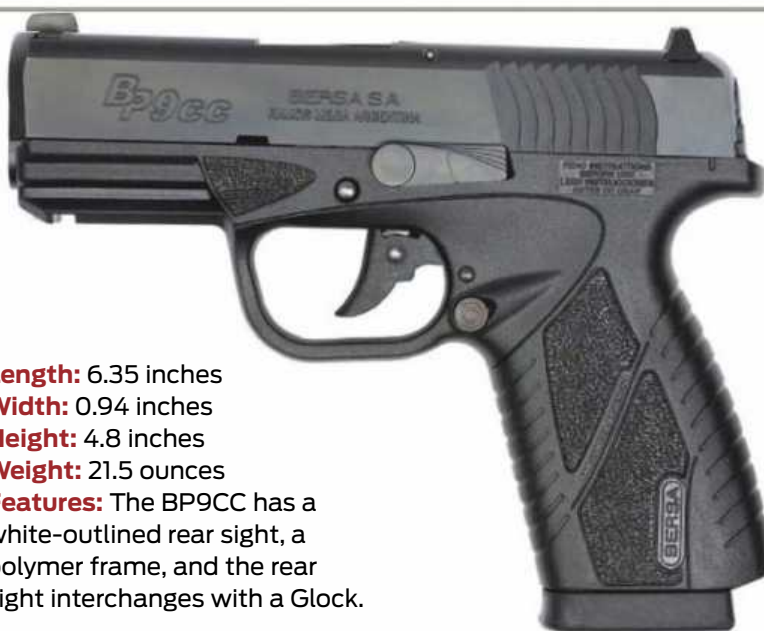
Capacity: 6+1

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 6.2 inches

Weight: 10.2 ounces

Features: The Curve is shaped to fit the contours of the human body to make it more comfortable for concealed carry. The tactical light and laser sight is incorporated right into the subcompact polymer frame, which has a metallic subframe.



Bersa BP9CC

Company: Bersa

Model: BP9CC

Website: www.Bersa.com

MSRP: \$429

Action: STR

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length: 3.3 inches

Length: 6.35 inches

Width: 0.94 inches

Height: 4.8 inches

Weight: 21.5 ounces

Features: The BP9CC has a white-outlined rear sight, a polymer frame, and the rear sight interchanges with a Glock.



Beretta BU9 Nano

Company: Beretta

Model: BU9 Nano

Website: www.BerettaUSA.com

MSRP: \$475

Action: STR

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 6+1

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 5.6 inches

Width: 0.9 inches

Height: 4.2 inches

Weight: 20 ounces

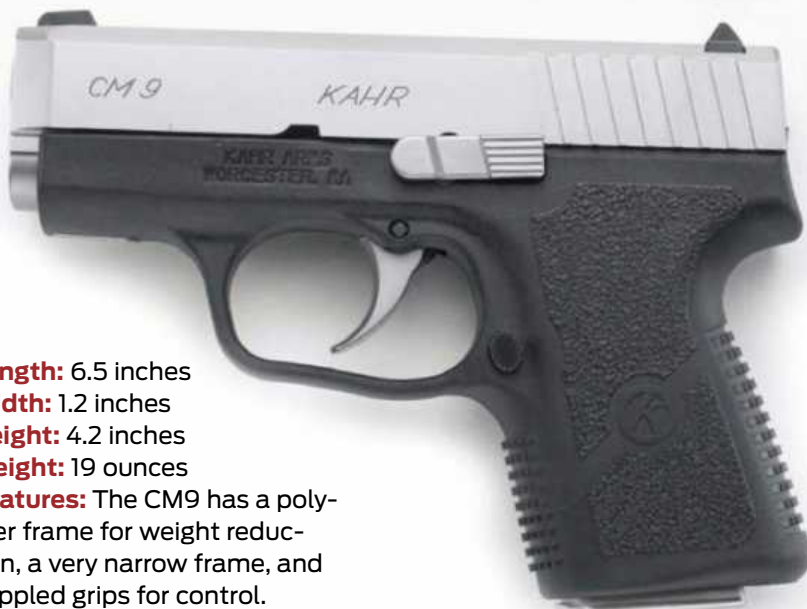
Features: The BU9 Nano has adjustable sights, is striker-fired, and is extremely small for a 9mm.



Kahr Arms CT380

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: CT380
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$419
Action: DAO
Caliber: .380 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches
Length: 5.5 inches
Width: .75 inches
Height: 4.4 inches
Weight: 11 ounces

Features: Double action only in operation, the CT380 is one of the smallest and thinnest .380 ACP pistols on the market, and this gun makes a great firearm for CCW holders.



Kahr Arms CM9

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: CM9
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$517
Action: DAO
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 6.5 inches
Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 4.2 inches
Weight: 19 ounces
Features: The CM9 has a polymer frame for weight reduction, a very narrow frame, and stippled grips for control.



Ruger SR40C

Company: Ruger
Model: SR40C
Website: www.Ruger.com
MSRP: \$529
Action: STR
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 9+1
Barrel Length: 3.5 inches
Length: 6.9 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.6 inches
Weight: 23.4 ounces

Features: The SR40C features an interchangeable back strap, with a polymer frame to save weight, an ambidextrous mag release, and optional 15+1 extended magazine.

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Ruger LC380

Company: Ruger
Model: LC380
Website: www.Ruger.com
MSRP: \$449
Action: STR
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3.1 inches
Length: 6.0 inches
Width: .90 inches
Height: 4.5 inches
Weight: 17.2 ounces

Features: The LC380 has a polymer frame with blued slide. It is the same size as the LC9, but it's chambered for the .380 cartridge for reduced recoil and a more comfortable shooting gun in extended range sessions. It has a three-dot sight and three internal safeties with a loaded chamber indicator. The MSRP for the Crimson Trace Version is \$629.



Beretta PX4 Storm Subcompact

Company: Beretta
Model: PX4 Storm Subcompact
Website: www.BerettaUSA.com
MSRP: \$575
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 13+1
Barrel Length: 3.0 inches
Length: 6.2 inches
Width: 1.4 inches
Height: 4.8 inches
Weight: 26 ounces

Features: The PX4 has an accessory rail and ambidextrous safety/decocker. It's the smallest Storm model.



Glock G27

Company: Glock
Model: G27
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$599
Action: STR
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 9+1
Barrel Length: 3.43 inches
Length: 6.5 inches

Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 4.2 inches
Weight: 20 ounces

Features: The G27 has a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine.

Glock G42

Company: Glock
Model: G42
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$469
Action: STR
Caliber: .380 Auto

Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 3.25 inches
Length: 5.94 inches
Width: .94 inches
Height: 4.13 inches
Weight: .87 pounds

Features: The G42 is the smallest Glock ever produced, so it's super-concealable. It has a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine.





Glock G39

Company: Glock
Model: G39
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$614
Action: STR
Caliber: .45 GAP
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 3.5 inches
Length: 6.5 inches
Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 4.2 inches
Weight: 20 ounces

Features: The G39 has a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, a double-stack magazine.



Kahr Arms P380

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: P380
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$649
Action: DAO
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.5 inches
Length: 4.9 inches
Width: 0.75 inches
Height: 3.9 inches
Weight: 11 ounces

Features: Kahr's P380 comes with a textured polymer grip, a very compact design, optional Crimson Trace laser, and optional night sights.

Sig Sauer P238

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: P238
Website: www.SigSauer.com
MSRP: \$693
Action: SA
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.7 inches
Length: 5.5 inches

Width: 1.1 inches
Height: 3.9 inches
Weight: 15 ounces
Features: The P238 features a cocked-and-locked single action carry. It's a 1911-style in a subcompact gun with many finishes/colors available.



Springfield XD(M) 3.9 9MM

Company: Springfield Armory
Model: XD(M) 3.8 9MM
Website: www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$697
Action: STR
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 19+1

Barrel Length: 3.8 inches
Length: 7 inches
Height: 5.6 inches
Weight: 28 ounces
Features: The XD(M) has a grip safety, trigger safety, fiber optic front sight, outstanding capacity, and a snag-free rear combat sight.

[MICRO TO SUB-COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Kimber Solo Carry

Company: Kimber
Model: Solo Carry
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$747
Action: STR
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.7 inches

Length: 5.5 inches
Width: 1 inch
Weight: 17 ounces
Features: The Solo Carry has low-profile white dot sights, 1911-inspired design in striker-fired configuration, three-dot combat sights and an aluminum frame.



Colt New Agent

Company: Colt
Model: New Agent
Website: www.Colt.com
MSRP: \$885
Action: DAO
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 6.75 inches
Weight: 22.5 ounces
Features: Slim-fit double diamond grips, a trench-style no-snag sight milled into frame, and an extremely streamlined design are all features of the New Agent.



Kimber Micro Raptor

Company: Kimber
Model: Micro Raptor
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$960
Action: SA
Caliber: .380 Auto
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 2.7 inches
Length: 5.5 inches
Width: 1 inch
Weight: 13.4 ounces
Features: The Micro Raptor has a stainless slide with 3-dot tritium night sights. **CC**

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[COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

MEDIUM SIZE MAJOR DUTY



The compact semi-auto handguns represent a category that is one of the most popular with shooters across the country. This is because the gun does pretty much everything very well.

It's an excellent gun for competitive shooting events such as IDPA and IPSC, Steel and 3-Gun matches. It's also a very good choice for those private citizens with CCW's that carry handguns for defensive use.

Add a compact semi to your arsenal, and we're betting you'll make it one of your more popular shooters as well.



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

[COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

[PRICE RANGE: UP TO \$600]

SCCY CPX-1

Company: SCCY
Model: CPX-1
Website:
www.SCCY.com
MSRP: \$299
Action: DAO
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 10+1

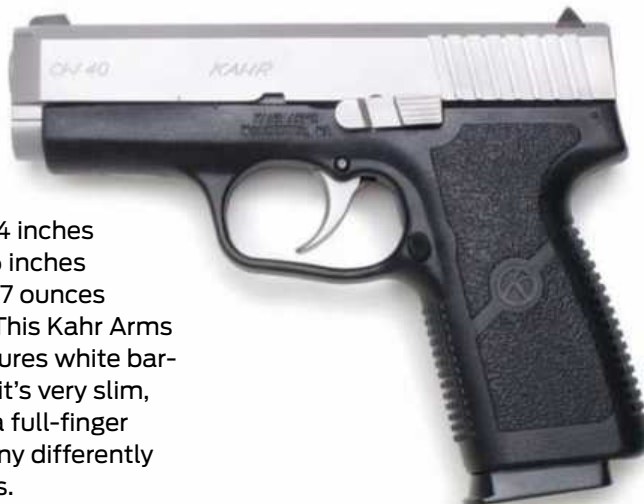
Barrel Length: 3.1 inches
Length: 5.7 inches
Width: 1 inch
Weight: 15 ounces
Features: The CPX-1 has a snag-free design, lever-style slide release, and an all-internal hammer.



Kahr Arms CW40

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: CW40
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$549
Action: DAO
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 3.6 inches
Length: 6.4 inches

Width: 0.94 inches
Height: 4.6 inches
Weight: 18.7 ounces
Features: This Kahr Arms model features white bar-dot sights, it's very slim, and it has a full-finger grip for many differently sized hands.



Beretta PX4 Storm Compact

Company: Beretta
Model: PX4 Storm Compact
Website:
www.BerettaUSA.com
MSRP: \$550
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 12+1
Barrel Length: 3.2 inches

Length: 7.6 inches
Width: 1.4 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 27.7 ounces
Features: Interchangeable back straps, accessory rail, a full-finger grip, and concealable dimensions make the PX4 a fantastic find.



EAA Witness Compact

Company: EAA
Model: Witness Compact
Website: www.EAACorp.com
MSRP: \$557
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 12+1
Barrel Length: 3.6 inches
Length: 7.3 inches

Width: 1.4 inches
Height: 4.5 inches
Weight: 30 ounces
Features: The Witness Compact, which is a compact version of the full-size model, has a steel frame for long service life. This model can also be converted to 9mm Luger.



Smith & Wesson M&P 40C

Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: M&P 40C
Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$569
Action: STR
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 10+1
Barrel Length: 3.5 inches

Length: 6.7 inches
Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 22 ounces
Features: The M&P 40C sports steel Novak Lo-Mount sights and a snag-free design. It's the smallest .40 S&W in the M&P line.



CZ 75 D PCR Compact

Company: CZ
Model: 75 D PCR Compact
Website: www.CZ-USA.com
MSRP: \$582
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 14+1
Barrel Length: 3.8 inches

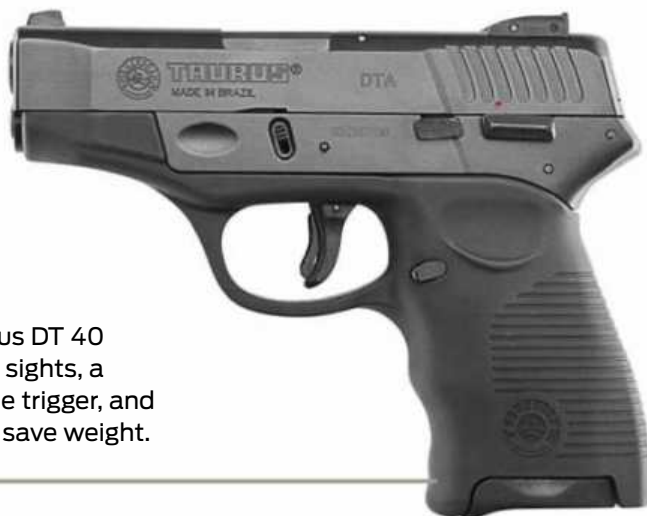
Length: 7.24 inches
Width: 1.38 inches
Height: 5.03 inches
Weight: 27.4 ounces
Features: A forged aluminum alloy frame, decocking lever and its light weight make the 75 D PCR Compact a standout model.

[COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

Taurus DT 40

Company: Taurus
Model: DT 40
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$589
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 11+1
Barrel Length: 3.2 inches

Length: 6.3 inches
Width: 1.15 inches
Height: 5 inches
Weight: 24 ounces
Features: The Taurus DT 40 features adjustable sights, a safety integral to the trigger, and a polymer frame to save weight.



Glock G23

Company: Glock
Model: G23
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$599
Action: STR
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 13+1
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 7.4 inches

Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 5 inches
Weight: 21 ounces
Features: Glock incorporated a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine in its G23 model.



[PRICE RANGE:
\$601 TO \$900]

Magnum Research Baby Desert Eagle II

Company: Magnum Research
Model: Baby Desert Eagle II
Website: www.MagnumResearch.com
MSRP: \$630
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 10+1

Barrel Length: 4.52 inches
Length: 8.25 inches
Weight: 38.6 ounces
Features: The Baby Desert Eagle II has three-dot sights, an integral accessory rail, a firing pin block safety, and a carbon steel slide.





Glock G30SF

Company: Glock
Model: G30SF
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$687
Action: STR
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 10+1
Barrel Length: 3.8 inches
Length: 6.9 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.9 inches
Weight: 20 ounces

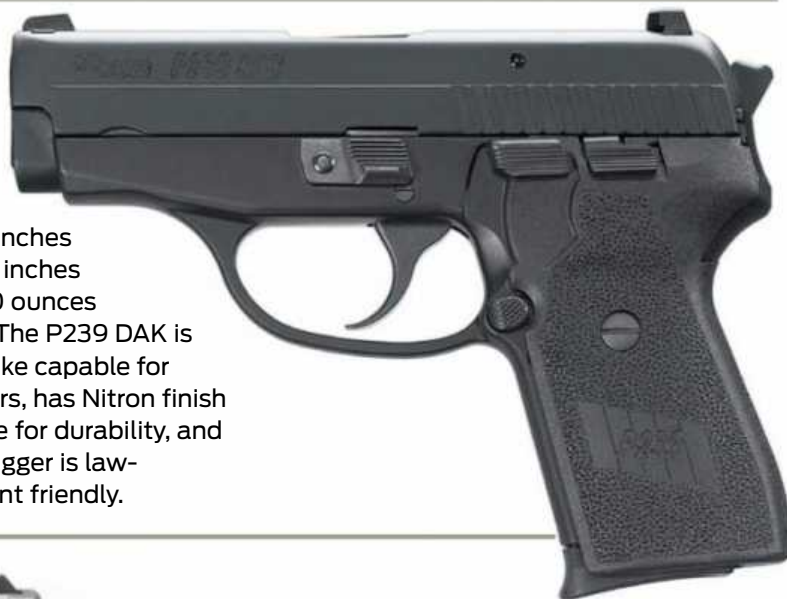
Features: The G30SF features a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine.



Beretta Cheetah 85FS

Company: Beretta
Model: Cheetah 85FS
Website: www.BerettaUSA.com
MSRP: \$770
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .380 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 3.8 inches
Length: 6.8 inches
Width: 1.4 inches
Height: 4.8 inches
Weight: 23.3 ounces

Features: Cocked-and-locked capable, safety/decocker, scaled-down cousin of the 92FS/M9.



Sig Sauer P239 DAK

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: P239 DAK
Website: www.SigSauer.com
MSRP: \$835
Action: DAO
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3.6 inches
Length: 6.6 inches

Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 5.1 inches
Weight: 30 ounces
Features: The P239 DAK is double-strike capable for hard primers, has Nitron finish on the slide for durability, and the DAO trigger is law-enforcement friendly.



Kahr Arms K40

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: K40
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$855
Action: DAO
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 3.5 inches
Length: 6.1 inches

Width: 0.94 inches
Height: 4.55 inches
Weight: 26 ounces
Features: Kahr Arms K40 features white bar-dot sights, full-finger grip for many hand sizes, a very narrow size, and tight tolerances for accuracy.

[COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

[PRICE RANGE: \$900 AND UP]



Kimber Pro TLE II

Company: Kimber
Model: Pro TLE II
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,224
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 4.5 inches
Length: 6.8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.75 inches
Weight: 35 ounces
Features: The Pro TLE II has a stainless match barrel, threaded for suppressor, Tritium night sights.



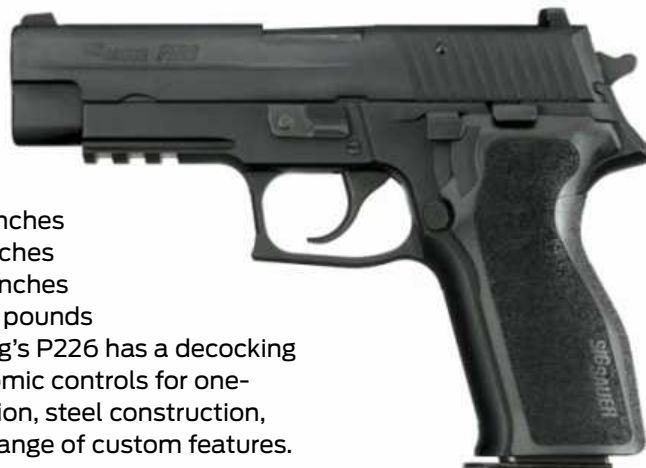
Kimber Ultra Crimson Carry II

Company: Kimber
Model: Ultra Crimson Carry II
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,206
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches
Length: 6.8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.75 inches
Weight: 25 ounces
Features: The Ultra Crimson Carry II features a match-grade barrel, snag-free sights, and Crimson Trace Lasergrips standard.

Sig Sauer P226

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: P226
Website: www.Sig-Sauer.com
MSRP: \$1,015
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 15+1
Barrel Length: 4.4 inches

Length: 7.7 inches
Width: 1.5 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 2.13 pounds
Features: Sig's P226 has a decocking lever, ergonomic controls for one-hand operation, steel construction, and a wide range of custom features.



Sig Sauer M11A1

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: M11A1
Website: www.SigSauer.com
MSRP: \$1,125
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 15+1
Barrel Length: 3.9 inches
Length: 7.1 inches

Width: 1.5 inches
Height: 5.4 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: SigLite night sights, a decocker, and steel constructions make this civilian version of Navy issue sidearm an impressive shooter in the M11A1.



Springfield Armory Champion Operator Lightweight .45 ACP

Company: Springfield Armory
Model: Champion Operator Lightweight .45 ACP
Website: www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$949
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 4.0 inches
Length: 8.5 inches
Weight: 31 ounces

Features: The Champion has a Commander-length barrel and full-size magazine. It features a fully supported ramped bull barrel, integral accessory rail, beavertail safety and Novak Lo-Mount 3-dot tritium sights.



Springfield Armory Range Officer's Compact

Company: Springfield Armory
Model: Range Officer's Compact
Website: www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$1,247
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 6.5 inches

Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.0 inches
Weight: 26 ounces
Features: The Range Officer's Company has a "high-hand" beaver-tail grip safety, a subcompact design, and a steel frame.



Colt XSE Series Model O

Company: Colt
Model: XSE Series Model O
Website: www.Colt.com
MSRP: \$944
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches
Length: 7.75 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 34 ounces

Features: The XSE Series Model O features a Commander-length barrel, an adjustable trigger, an extended and ambidextrous frame-mounted safety, and an extended beaver-tail safety with palm swell. **CC**

[FULL-SIZE SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

BIG POWER **BIG CAPABILITY**





It is the king of the jungle.

Large-framed semi-automatic handguns represent the top of the food chain in the realm of concealed carry handguns. They do have their challenges as far as being able to effectively conceal them, although with the proper clothing and today's modern IWB holster designs, concealing these large autos is easier than ever before.

These large guns do have a few downsides. They are "printable" under clothes, and are heavy to carry around all day. There are significant upsides, however: They are generally steel construction, which lessens the effects of felt recoil, and they can take the pounding of firing large amounts of ammunition over time. They are usually equipped with accessory rails for mounting lights and lasers, and have great balance necessary for natural pointing and aiming.

Size, versatility and chambered in calibers specifically for defending and competitive usage — the full-size semi-auto handgun is king in the concealed carry category.

It's the leader of the pack.

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

[FULL-SIZE SEMI-AUTOMATICS]

[PRICE RANGE: UP TO \$500]



CZ P-07 Duty

Company: CZ
Model: P-07 Duty
Website: www.CZ-USA.com
MSRP: \$487
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 16+1
Barrel Length: 3.8 inches
Length: 7.3 inches
Width: 1.5 inches

Height: 5.1 inches
Weight: 27 ounces
Features: The P-07 Duty features a safety/decocker that's interchangeable with a standard safety, it has a threaded barrel, it has a high capacity, and it's designed to meet police defensive requirements.



Taurus 845

Company: Taurus
Model: 845
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$486
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 12+1
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 8.5 inches
Width: 1.6 inches
Weight: 34 ounces

Features: The 845 has a blued steel finish with ambidextrous three-position safety with decocker. The pistol has a Strike-Two capability which allows for re-striking misfiring primers.

[PRICE RANGE: \$501-\$600]



Taurus 1911FS

Company: Taurus
Model: 1911FS
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$684
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 5.0 inches
Length: 8.5 inches
Width: 1.5 inches
Height: 5.45 inches

Weight: 38 ounces
Features: The Taurus 1911FS is fitted with genuine Novak sights, a lightened aluminum trigger, and is chambered for the .45 ACP. It also features the TSS, or Taurus Security System, which provides a secure way to keep your firearm in a ready-to-go posture, while still being able to keep the pistol from being used by anyone else.

Steyr C9-A1

Company: Steyr
Model: C9-A1
Website: www.SteyrArms.com
MSRP: \$560
Action: DAO
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 17+1

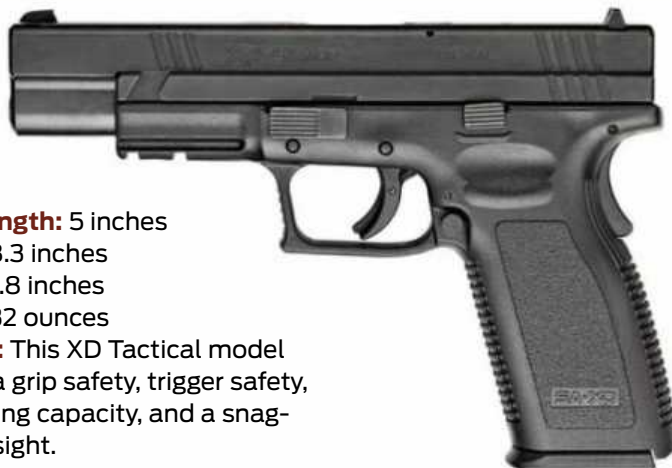
Barrel Length: 3.6 inches
Length: 6.7 inches
Weight: 25.6 ounces
Features: The C9-A1 has adjustable 3-dot sights, a low barrel axis, an integral accessory rail, and a trigger safety.



Springfield XD 5" Tactical .45 ACP

Company: Springfield
Model: XD 5" Tactical .45 ACP
Website: www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$629
Action: STR
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 13+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches
Length: 8.3 inches
Height: 5.8 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: This XD Tactical model features a grip safety, trigger safety, outstanding capacity, and a snag-free rear sight.



[FULL-SIZE SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



CZ 75 D PCR Compact

Company: CZ

Model: 75 D PCR Compact

Website: www.CZ-USA.com

MSRP: \$582

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 14+1

Barrel Length: 3.8 inches

Length: 7.24 inches

Width: 1.38 inches

Height: 5.03 inches

Weight: 27.4 ounces

Features: A forged aluminum alloy frame, decocking lever and its light weight make the 75 D PCR Compact a standout model.



Smith & Wesson M&P45

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: M&P45

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$599

Action: STR

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 10+1

Barrel Length: 4.5 inches

Length: 7.5 inches

Width: 1.3 inches

Height: 5.5 inches

Weight: 28 ounces

Features: Interchangeable back straps, a white dot low-profile tactical sights, and a design for duty and defensive carry make the M&P45 a standout.

[PRICE RANGE:
\$601-\$800]

Glock G22

Company: Glock
Model: G22
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$641
Action: STR
Caliber: .40 S&W
Capacity: 15+1
Barrel Length: 4.5 inches



Length: 8.0 inches
Width: 1.2 inches
Height: 5.4 inches
Weight: 23 ounces
Features: The G22 sports a white outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, and double-stack magazine.

Glock G30SF

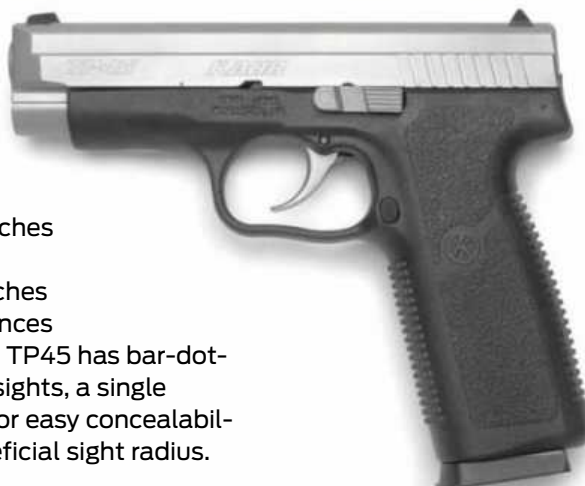
Company: Glock
Model: G30SF
Website: www.Glock.com
MSRP: \$687
Action: STR
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 10+1
Barrel Length: 3.8 inches
Length: 6.9 inches



Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.9 inches
Weight: 20 ounces
Features: The G30SF features a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine.

Kahr Arms TP45

Company: Kahr Arms
Model: TP45
Website: www.Kahr.com
MSRP: \$697
Action: DAO
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 4 inches



Length: 6.6 inches
Width: 1 inch
Height: 5.3 inches
Weight: 23 ounces
Features: The TP45 has bar-dot-style combat sights, a single stack design for easy concealability, and a beneficial sight radius.

[FULL-SIZE SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



CZ 85 Combat Dual Tone

Company: CZ

Model: 85 Combat Dual Tone

Website: www.CZ-USA.com

MSRP: \$641

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 16+1

Barrel Length: 4.72 inches

Length: 8.11 inch

Weight: 35.36 ounces

Features: This CZ 85 is the ambidextrous version of CZ75, and it has a reversible magazine release, and improved trigger pull.



Walther P99

Company: Walther

Model: P99

Website:

www.WaltherArms.com

MSRP: \$679

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .40 S&W

Capacity: 12+1

Barrel Length: 4.1 inches

Length: 7.2 inches

Width: 1.3 inches

Height: 5.3 inches

Weight: 26 ounces

Features: The P99 has a safety/decocker button, ambidextrous mag release built into the trigger guard, and three-dot adjustable combat sights.



Taurus M92

Company: Taurus

Model: M92

Website: www.TaurusUSA.com

MSRP: \$641

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 17+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Width: 1.6 inches

Weight: 34 ounces

Features: The M92 sports improved capacity (17+1), a combat-style trigger guard, and a multi-position frame-mounted safety/decocker.



Glock G17

Company: Glock

Model: G17

Website: www.Glock.com

MSRP: \$690

Action: STR

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 17+1

Barrel Length: 4.5 inches

Length: 8 inches

Width: 1.2 inches

Height: 5.4 inches

Weight: 22 ounces

Features: The G17 has a white outline rear sight, a polymer frame for light weight, a combat trigger guard, and a double-stack magazine.

[FULL-SIZE SEMI-AUTOMATICS]



Beretta 92FS

Company: Beretta

Model: 92FS

Website: www.BerettaUSA.com

MSRP: \$682

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 15+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Width: 1.5 inch

Height: 5.4 inches

Weight: 33.3 ounces

Features: the 92FS was the standard issue pistol for U.S. Armed forces for decades. This pistol is used by militaries and law enforcement personnel around the world. It has DA/SA action with loaded chamber indicator, a reversible magazine catch, and ambidextrous thumb safeties. It's also available in stainless steel as the 92FS Inox.

Springfield XD(M) 5.25" Competition Series



Company: Springfield

Model: XD(M) 5.25" Competition Series

Website: www.Springfield-Armory.com

MSRP: Starts at \$795

Action: STR

Caliber: 9mm Luger, 40 S&W, .45 ACP

Capacity: 13+1

Barrel Length: 5.25 inches

Length: 8.3 inches

Height: 5.8 inches

Weight: 32 ounces

Features: The XD(M) Competition features a 5.25-inch match-grade barrel, with fiber optic front sight and fully adjustable rear sight.

[PRICE RANGE: \$800 AND UP]



Browning Hi-Power MK III

Company: Browning
Model: Hi-Power MK III
Website: www.Browning.com
MSRP: \$1,059
Action: SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 13+1
Barrel Length: 4.625 inches

Features: The MK III has an ambidextrous safety and integral thumb rests. This was John Browning's last 1911-style design and arguably the second-best single action semi-automatic handgun ever designed.



Sig Sauer P226 MK25

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: P226 MK25
Website: www.Sig-Sauer.com
MSRP: \$1,142
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 15+1
Barrel Length: 4.4 inches
Length: 7.7 inches
Width: 1.5 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 34 ounces

Features: This P226 MK25 has a decocking lever, anti-corrosion coatings on controls, anchor engraving, and SIGLITE night sights.

NITROGEN FUELED RIFLE



FUEL .22

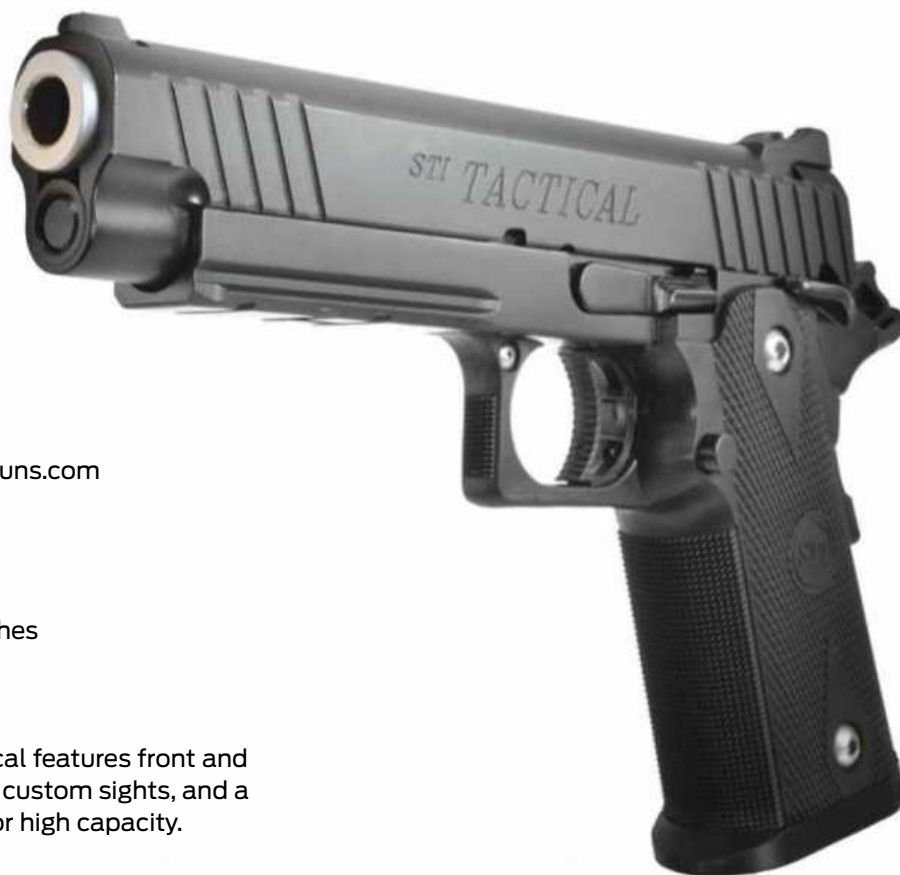
A .22 caliber powerhouse fueled by the ReAxis gas piston slings pellets down range at a blazing 1000 fps. Its muzzle noise is reduced by the Umarex SilencAir noise dampening system. Equipped with a built-in bipod, Lockdown Mount, and 3-9x32 scope, the Umarex Fuel is ready for steady target acquisition.

See it in action here:

www.UmarexUSA.com/firepower

UXTM UMAREX AIR GUNS

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STI Tactical

Company: STI

Model: Tactical

Website: www.STIGuns.com

MSRP: \$2,045

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 11+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Width: 1.5 inches

Weight: 34 ounces

Features: The Tactical features front and rear slide serrations, custom sights, and a double-stack mag for high capacity.



Glock MOS Series

Company: Glock

Model: G34 MOS, G35 MOS, G40 MOS, G41 MOS

Website: www.Glock.com

MSRP: Starts at \$840

Action: STR

Caliber: 9x19, .40 S&W, .45 ACP, 10mm Auto

Specifications: Vary by model

Features: The Glock Modular Optic System (MOS) allows shooters to mount a variety of optical sights onto to four models of Glock pistols in four different calibers. **CC**

Every Soldier has a story to tell.

The personal recollections of these ordinary men and women who have done extraordinary things for their fellow Soldiers, their Army, and their nation will soon be told at the National Museum of the United States Army.



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JOHN BROWNING'S UNSURPASSED DESIGN

Lcon John Browning's concept is arguably the finest all-around, most versatile handgun ever designed. Modified, welded on, hammered, peened, filed on, sanded on, built up and machined down, the gun is also one of the most modified pistols on the competition and defensive market.

Look at the plethora of aftermarket parts for it if you need more justification for the pistol's dominance in the market. Rather than declining, the

handgun keeps increasing in popularity, as evidenced by the many companies offering their own version of the quintessential pistol. As modified as the 1911 is, it was so well designed that it makes a great pistol for defensive carry or weekend plinking right out of the box.

So whether you choose a simple model or a highly modified version from our favorites list, you're getting the best of the best.

[PRICE RANGE:
\$450-\$1,000]

Armscor M1911A1 Tactical

Company: Armscor
Model: M1911A1 Tactical
Website:
www.ArmscorUSA.com
MSRP: \$460
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1

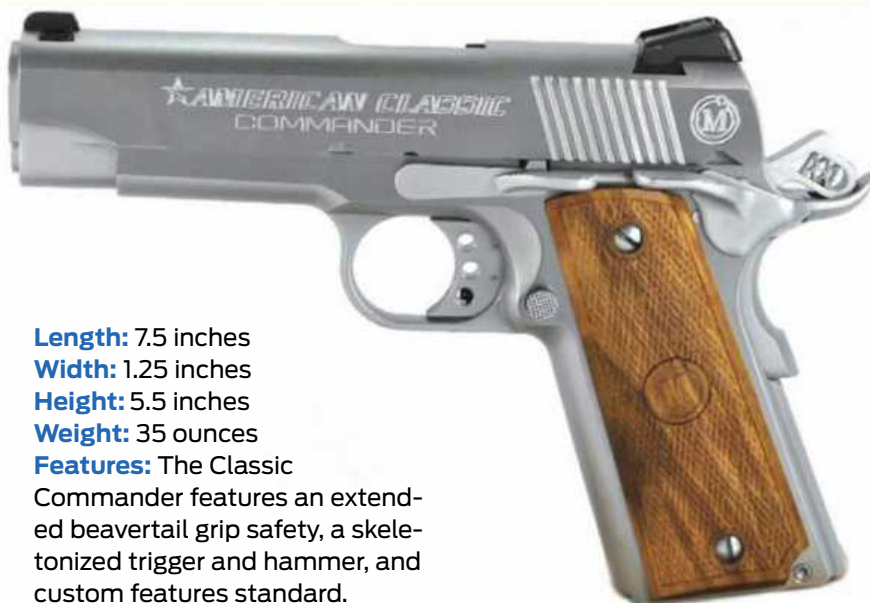
Barrel Length: 5 inches
Length: 8.56 ounces
Weight: 45.92 ounces
Features: The M1911A1 has three-dot low profile night sights, an integral accessory rail, and an ambidextrous safety.



American Classic's Classic Commander

Company: American Classic
Model: Classic Commander
Website:
www.AmericanClassic1911.com
MSRP: \$600
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches

Length: 7.5 inches
Width: 1.25 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 35 ounces
Features: The Classic Commander features an extended beavertail grip safety, a skeletonized trigger and hammer, and custom features standard.



Citadel M-1911 A1 Compact

Company: Citadel
Model: M-1911 A1 Compact
Website:
www.LegacySports.com
MSRP: \$639
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 3.5 inches
Length: 7.5 inches
Weight: 34 ounces
Features: Hogue grips, a skeletonized trigger and hammer, and an ambidextrous safety are all features of the M-1911 A1 Compact.





American Classic Officer's Model

Company: American Classic

Model: Officer's Model

Website:

www.AmericanClassic1911.com

MSRP: \$684

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 3.5 inches

Length: 7.25 inches

Weight: 32.45 ounces

Features: The Officer's Model has a Novak-style rear combat sight, super-compact Officer-size design, and lowered and flared ejection port.



Remington 1911 R1

Company: Remington

Model: 1911 R1

Website:

www.Remington.com

MSRP: \$729

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 7 + 1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Weight: 38.5 ounces

Features: This Remington features satin black oxide finish, double-diamond walnut stocks, 3-dot sights (dovetailed front and rear).



Colt 38 Super Auto

Company: Colt

Model: 38 Super Auto

Website: www.ColtMfg.com

MSRP: \$837

Action: SA

Caliber: .38 Super

Capacity: 9+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Height: 5.5 inches

Weight: 38 ounces

Features: Adjustable target sights, classic styling, .38 Super caliber for competition and use in countries that ban military calibers for civilian use are all features of Colt's 38 Super Auto.



Sig Sauer 1911 Traditional RTSS

Company: Sig Sauer

Model: 1911 Traditional RTSS

Website: www.SigSauer.com

MSRP: \$949

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 8.7 inches

Width: 1.4 inches

Height: 5.5 inches

Weight: 42 ounces

Features: Trijicon adjustable night sights, extended ergonomic controls, and attractive styling are featured in the 1911 Traditional RTSS from Sig Sauer.



Kimber Eclipse Custom II

Company: Kimber

Model: Eclipse Custom II

Website:

www.KimberAmerica.com

MSRP: \$906

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 7.7 inches

Width: 1.3 inches

Height: 5.25 inches

Weight: 28 ounces

Features: This handgun features a stainless steel slide and frame, with a match-grade barrel, front and rear cocking serrations on the slide, with Meprolight Tritium 3-dot fixed night sights. It also has a checkered front strap, double diamond laminated stocks, and a 4-5 pound trigger.



Springfield Range Officer Champion

Company: Springfield

Model: Range Officer Champion

Website:

www.Springfield-Armory.com

MSRP: \$977

Action: SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 7.6 inches

Height: 5.5 inches

Weight: 30 ounces

Features: The Range Officer Champion sports an alloy frame, a fully supported ramped barrel, and has a fiber front sight and Lo-profile rear sight.

[PRICE RANGE: \$1,000-2,000]

Colt Defender 7002D

Company: Colt

Model: Defender 7002D

Website:

www.ColtMfg.com

MSRP: \$1,015

Action: SA

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length:

3 inches

Length: 6.75 inches

Width: 1.3 inches

Weight: 25 ounces

Features: Novak low-mount carry sights, a large capacity for size, and 9mm Luger caliber in a 1911-type frame are all features of the Defender 7002D.



[1911 PISTOLS]



Kimber Ultra Crimson Carry II

Company: Kimber
Model: Ultra Crimson Carry II
Website: KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,206
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 6.8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.75 inches
Weight: 25 ounces
Features: The Ultra Crimson Carry II sports a match-grade barrel, snag-free sights, and Crimson Trace Lasergrips standard.



Sig Sauer 1911 Carry Scorpion

Features: The 1911 Carry Scorpion has low-profile night sights, Hogue G-10 grips, an ambidextrous safety, and an accessory rail.

Company: Sig Sauer
Model: 1911 Carry Scorpion
Website: www.SigSauer.com
MSRP: \$1,213
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 4.2 inches
Length: 7.7 inches
Width: 1.4 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 35 ounces

STI Off Duty

Company: STI
Model: Off Duty
Website: www.STIGuns.com
MSRP: \$1,243
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1

Barrel Length: 3.24 inches
Length: 7 inches
Weight: 30.4 ounces
Features: The Off Duty features 3-dot adjustable combat sights, checkered cocobolo grip panels, and a ramped bull barrel.





Springfield EMP

Company: Springfield
Model: EMP
Website:
www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$1,345
Action: SA
Caliber: 9mm Luger
Capacity: 9+1
Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 6.6 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.8 inches
Weight: 28 ounces
Features: The EMP has diamond-pattern cocobolo grips, a large capacity for its type, and tritium night sights.



Springfield TRP

Company: Springfield
Model: TRP
Website:
www.Springfield-Armory.com
MSRP: \$1,646
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 5 inches
Length: 8.6 inches
Height: 5.7 inches
Weight: 42 ounces
Features: The TRP (Tactical Response Pistol) has 20 LPI Checkering on the front strap, and an integral accessory rail.



Smith & Wesson SW1911 SC E-Series

Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: SW1911 SC E-Series
Website:
www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$1,369
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches

Length: 8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 30 ounces
Features: The SW1911 SC E-Series features a Scandium alloy frame, round butt, S&W Custom Shop fit and finish.

[1911 PISTOLS]



Colt 21st Century Commander

Company: Colt
Model: 21st Century Commander
Website: Colt.com
MSRP: \$1,379
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7 + 1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches
Weight: 35 ounces
Features: The 21st Century Commander is made of a lightweight aluminum alloy, has the Colt beavertail grip safety, a secure grip, and is the Wiley Clapp Edition.



Smith & Wesson SW1911 Bobtail Carry

Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: SW1911 Bobtail Carry
Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$1,539
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches
Length: 8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 30 ounces

Features: This 1911 Bobtail Carry has a relieved slide, fish scale serrations, and a bobbed tail for increased concealability.



Kimber Master Carry Pro

Company: Kimber
Model: Master Carry Pro
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,568
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 7.7 inches

Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.25 inches
Weight: 28 ounces
Features: This Master Carry Pro has Crimson Trace Master Series Lasergrips, a bobbed grip frame for concealment, and an aluminum match-grade trigger.



Kimber Tactical Entry II

Company: Kimber
Model: Tactical Entry II
Website: www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,490
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 5 inches

Length: 7.7 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 40 ounces
Features: The Tactical Entry II features a match-grade barrel, low-profile sights, and a Picatinney rail.



Kimber Warrior SOC

Company: Kimber
Model: Warrior SOC
Website:
www.KimberAmerica.com
MSRP: \$1,738
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 5.5 inches
Length: 7.7 inches
Width: 1.3 inches

Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 39 ounces
Features: The Warrior SOC has a threaded barrel for suppressor, tritium sights, a Picatinny rail, and a Crimson trace laser.

[PRICE RANGE: \$2,000 & UP]



Dan Wesson Valor

Company: CZ-USA
Model: Valor
Website:
www.CZ-USA.com

MSRP: \$2,012
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 5 inches
Length: 8.8 inches
Width: 1.5 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 38 ounces

Features: The Valor features Heinie straight eight adjustable night sights, a match-grade barrel, and an undercut trigger guard for comfort.

Dan Wesson V-BOB

Company: CZ-USA
Model: V-BOB
Website: www.CZ-USA.com
MSRP: \$2,077
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 8+1
Barrel Length: 4.25 inches

Length: 8 inches
Width: 1.45 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 35.2 ounces
Features: The V-BOB has a ceramic-base finish, no-snag combat-style sights, and it's designed for concealability.



Guncrafter Industries CCO

Company: Guncrafter Industries
MODEL: CCO
WEBSITE:
www.GuncrafterIndustries.com
MSRP: \$2,795
Action: SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 7+1

Barrel Length: 4.75 inches
Length: 8 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 5.5 inches
Weight: 33 ounces
Features: The CCO sports tritium snag-free night sights, an enlarged beavertail grip safety, and a custom fit & finish. **CC**



SMALL GUNS, EASY CONCEALMENT

The small and compact revolver fills an important niche in the defensive handgun category. Used for generations by law enforcement as a deep concealed backup pistol, the compact revolver still fills the bill for that today. Small revolvers also have

excellent pointing characteristics, which makes them suitable for defensive use.

The revolver has another feature that lends itself to concealed carry: it's extremely reliable. When you need them, revolvers almost always go bang.



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

[COMPACT REVOLVERS]

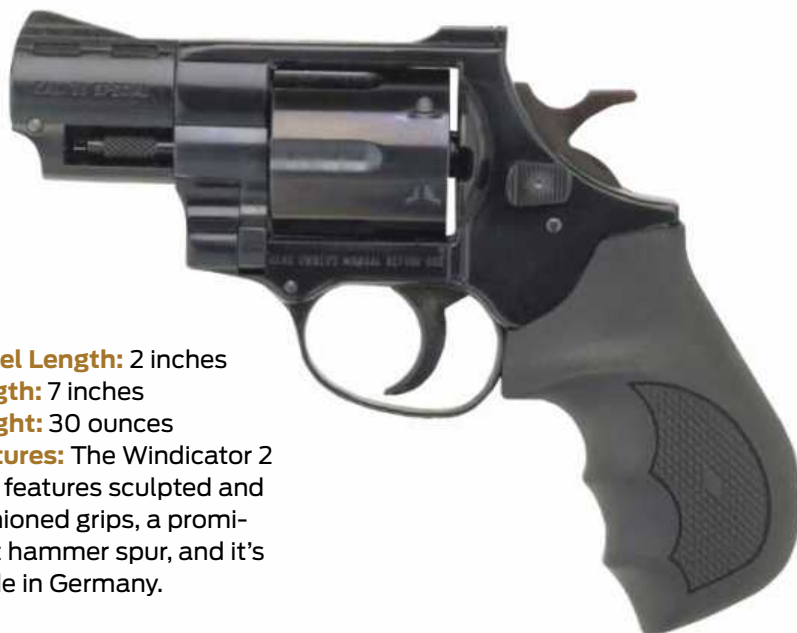


[PRICE RANGE: \$300-\$400]

Taurus 85

Company: Taurus
Model: 85
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$398
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .38 Special +P
Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 2 inches

Length: 6.25 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 1.31 pounds
Features: The Taurus 85 has compact dimensions, is rated for powerful +P loads, and features straightforward operation.



EAA Windicator 2 inch

Company: EAA
Model: Windicator 2 Inch
Website: www.EAACorp.com
MSRP: \$343
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2 inches
Length: 7 inches
Weight: 30 ounces
Features: The Windicator 2 Inch features sculpted and cushioned grips, a prominent hammer spur, and it's made in Germany.



Charter Arms Mag Pug Standard

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Mag Pug Standard
Website: www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$400
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 2.2 inches
Weight: 23 ounces
Features: The Mag Pug Standard comes with rubber grips, an easily concealable design, and a smooth trigger.

[PRICE RANGE: \$401-\$500]



Charter Arms Pink Lady Off Duty

Company: Charter Arms

Model: Pink Lady Off Duty

Website: www.CharterFirearms.com

MSRP: \$421

Action: DAO

Caliber: .38 Special

Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 2 inches

Weight: 12 ounces

Features: The Pink Lady features a bright pink cast-aluminum frame. It's extremely light weight and operates very simply.



Charter Arms Bulldog Pug

Company: Charter Arms

Model: Bulldog Pug

Website: www.CharterFirearms.com

MSRP: \$414

Action: DAO

Caliber: .44 Special

Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Weight: 21 ounces

Features: A bobbed hammer design, a snag-free receiver design, and a serious defensive caliber make the Bulldog Pug a standout.



Taurus 85SS2FS

Company: Taurus

Model: 85SS2FS

Website: www.TaurusUSA.com

MSRP: \$429

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .38 Special +P

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2 inches

Length: 6.5 inches

Weight: 22.2 ounces

Features: The Taurus 85SS2FS features a transfer bar and the TSS or Taurus Security System which provides the ability to secure your pistol and make it inoperable at the turn of a key.

Rossi 462

Company: Rossi

Model: 462

Website: www.RossiUSA.com

MSRP: \$454

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2 inches

Weight: 26 ounces

Features: The Rossi 462 sports low-profile fixed sights, scalloped grips, and solid firepower.



[COMPACT REVOLVERS]

Taurus 850B2UL

Company: Taurus
Model: 850B2UL
Website:
www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$474
Action: DAO
Caliber: .38 Special +P
Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 2 inches
Length: 6.5 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 18 ounces
Features: The Taurus 850B2UL has a concealed, no-snag hammer, rubber grips, and is very light.



Charter Arms Southpaw

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Southpaw
Website:
www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$415
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .38 Special +P
Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 2 inches
Weight: 12 ounces
Features: The Southpaw is a dedicated left-hand model, has an aluminum frame for light weight, and it's also available in a two-tone pink finish.

Charter Arms Undercover Lite Black STD

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Undercover Lite Black Std
Website:
www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$410
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .38 Special +P

Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 2 inches
Weight: 12 ounces
Features: An aluminum frame with steel is the basis for the Undercover Lite Black Std and it also sports a spurred hammer and integral sights.





Cobra Shadow with Laser

Company: Cobra Firearms

Model: The Shadow

Website:

www.CobraPistols.net

MSRP: \$425

Action: DAO

Caliber: .38 Special +P

Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 1.9 inches

Length: 6.4 inches

Weight: 15 ounces

Features: The Shadow has a hammerless design, integral sights and comes in a wide range of custom colors.

[PRICE RANGE: \$501 & UP]



Smith & Wesson 60LS LadySmith

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 60 LS Ladysmith

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$759

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum, .38 Special +P

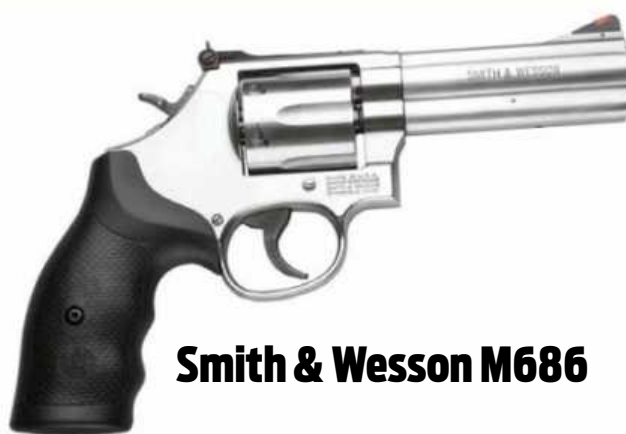
Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 2.1 inches

Length: 6.6 inches

Weight: 1.31 pounds

Features: This LadySmith features walnut full-finger grips and integral sights. It fits easily in a purse or discreet holster.



Smith & Wesson M686

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 686

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$829

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum, .38 Special +P

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 7.5 inches

Weight: 2.17 pounds

Features: The 686 has a comfortable grip and sports adjustable sights with white outline, the front site has an orange insert.

Smith & Wesson Governor

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: Governor

Website:

www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$869

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .45 Colt, .410 Shotshell, .45 ACP

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2.75 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Width: 1.75 inches

Height: 5.5 inches

Weight: 1.88 pounds

Features: The Governor accepts .410 shotshells, .45 Colt and .45 ACP ammunition, features integral sights, and has a rifled barrel.



[COMPACT REVOLVERS]



Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 38

Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: Bodyguard 38
Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$509
Action: DAO
Caliber: .38 Special

Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 1.9 inches
Length: 6.6 inches
Weight: 14.3 ounces
Features: The Bodyguard 38 has a hammerless design, laser sight, and integral metallic sights.



Smith & Wesson 351PD

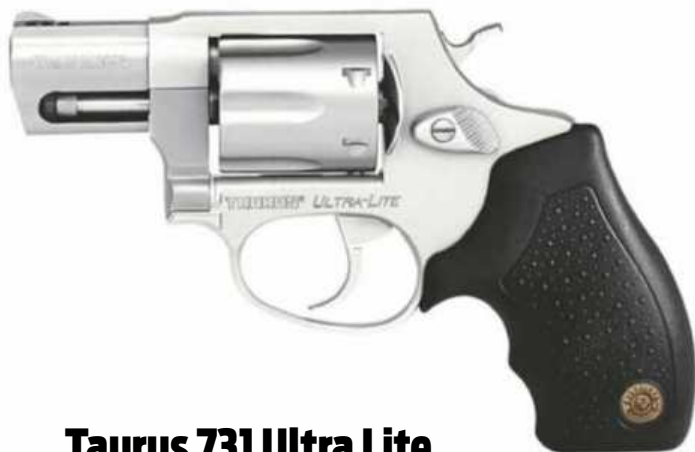
Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: 351PD
Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$689
Action: DAO
Caliber: .22 Magnum
Capacity: 7

Barrel Length: 1.9 inches
Length: 6.2 inches
Weight: 11 ounces
Features: Smith & Wesson's 351PD sports a hammerless design. It has a high capacity for size and it's suitable for the recoil-sensitive.



Taurus 850SS2UL

Company: Taurus
Model: 850SS2UL
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$514
Action: DAO
Caliber: .38 Special +P
Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 2 inches
Length: 6.5 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 18 ounces
Features: The 850SS2UL is very light, with rubber grips and a concealed no-snag hammer.



Taurus 731 Ultra Lite

Company: Taurus
Model: 731 Ultra Lite
Website:
www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$514
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .32 H&R
 Magnum
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2 inches
Length: 6.5 inches
Height: 4.3 inches
Weight: 17 ounces
Features: This light-weight 731 has a powerful specialty caliber in a compact overall package.



Ruger LCR with Crimson Trace LaserGrips

Company: Ruger
Model: LCR
Website:
www.Ruger.com
MSRP: \$879
Action: DAO
Caliber: .357 Magnum
Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 1.9 inches

Length: 6.5 inches
Width: 1.3 inches
Height: 4.5 inches
Weight: 16.6 ounces
Features: The LCR sports a hammerless design, some polymer components, and custom Crimson Trace LaserGrips. **CC**



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DURABILITY AND POWER

The medium revolver holds a unique spot in the world of concealed carry.

Just a bit larger and less concealable than the pocket revolvers, but large enough to control when firing the Magnum calibers, the medium revolver possesses the best of both worlds. These intermediate-sized revolvers are also generally more durable when firing a steady diet of full-power loads, so use them for longer practice sessions.

Your top choices follow.



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

[MEDIUM REVOLVERS]



[PRICE RANGE: \$400-\$500]

Rossi 98104

Company: Rossi
Model: 98104
Website: www.RossiUSA.com
MSRP: \$408
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .22 LR
Capacity: 8

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 8.5 inches
Weight: 29 ounces
Features: This model has a ventilated rib atop the barrel, adjustable sights, and supremely comfortable grips.



Charter Bulldog Stainless Standard

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Bulldog Stainless Standard
Website: www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$455
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 Special

Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: The 4-inch barrel stainless steel target model is fitted with adjustable sights and a longer barrel for higher velocities.



Rossi R971

Company: Rossi
Model: R971
Website: www.RossiUSA.com
MSRP: \$465
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 6
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: Adjustable sights, molded grips, great sight radius.

Charter Bulldog 44 Special Tiger

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Bulldog 44 Special Tiger
Website: www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$466
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 Special
Capacity: 5

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: This stainless steel edition of the .44 Bulldog is coated with a tiger striped finish that is extremely durable. This 4-inch barreled model is fitted with adjustable sights.



Taurus 65B4

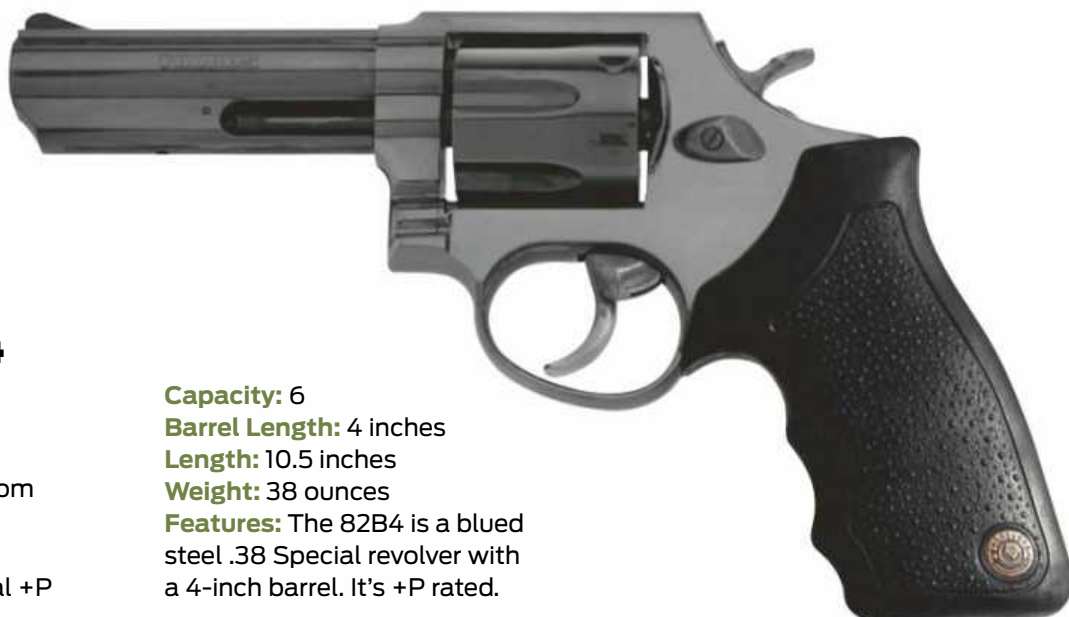
Company: Taurus
Model: 65B4
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$488
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 10.5 inches
Weight: 38 ounces
Features: Comfortable rubber grips, fixed sights, and a custom SA/DA trigger make up this Taurus revolver.

Taurus 82B4

Company: Taurus
Model: 82B4
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$489
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .38 Special +P

Capacity: 6
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 10.5 inches
Weight: 38 ounces
Features: The 82B4 is a blued steel .38 Special revolver with a 4-inch barrel. It's +P rated.



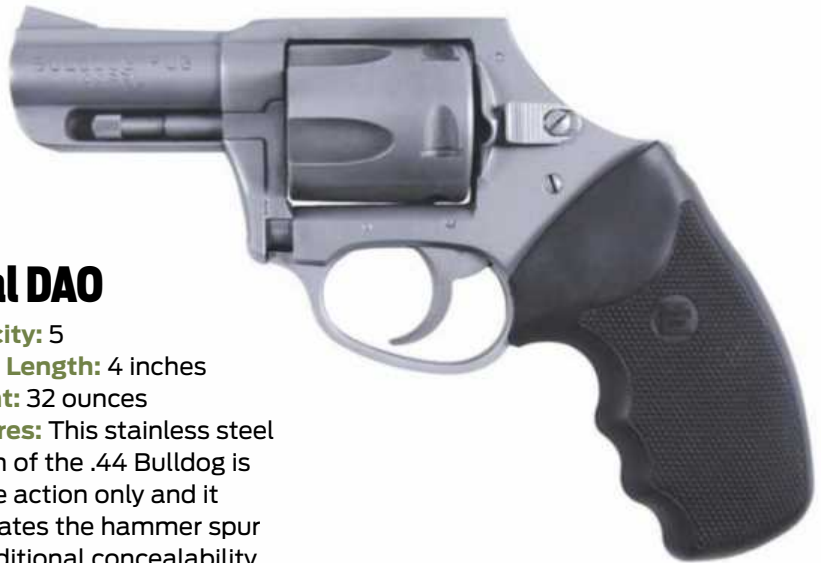
[MEDIUM REVOLVERS]

[PRICE RANGE: \$500 & UP]

Charter Bulldog 44 Special DAO

Company: Charter Arms
Model: Bulldog 44 Special DAO
Website: www.CharterFirearms.com
MSRP: \$510
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 Special

Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Weight: 32 ounces
Features: This stainless steel edition of the .44 Bulldog is double action only and it eliminates the hammer spur for additional concealability.



Taurus 4510PLYFS

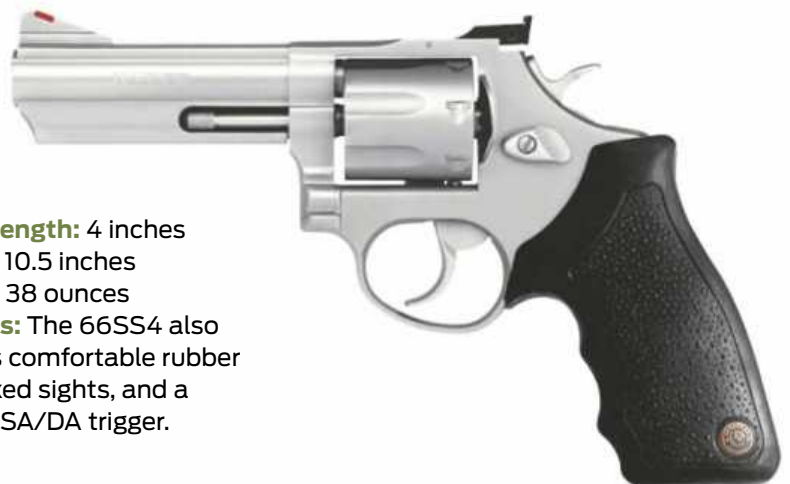
Company: Taurus
Model: 4510PLYFS
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$514
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .45 Colt, 410 Shotshell

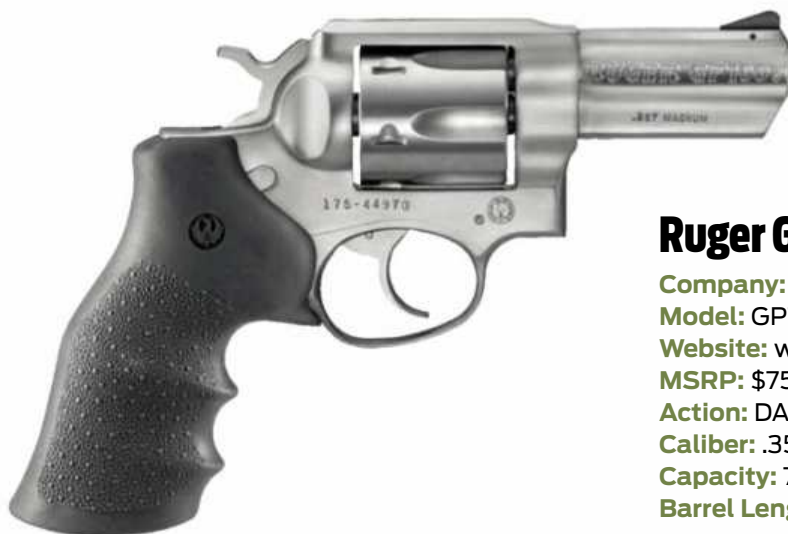
Capacity: 5
Barrel Length: 2 inches
Length: 7.65 inches
Weight: 27 ounces
Features: Rubber Grips, extended ejector rod, and fiber optic front sight are all featured in model 4510PLYFS.

Taurus 66SS4

Company: Taurus
Model: 66SS4
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$536
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum
Capacity: 7

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 10.5 inches
Weight: 38 ounces
Features: The 66SS4 also features comfortable rubber grips, fixed sights, and a custom SA/DA trigger.





Ruger GP100

Company: Ruger

Model: GP100

Website: www.Ruger.com

MSRP: \$759

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 7

Barrel Length: 4.2 inches

Length: 9.5 inches

Weight: 40 ounces

Features: The GP100 features adjustable sights, a palm swell grip, and an extra shot by virtue of unique chambering.



Chiappa Rhino 40DS

Company: Chiappa

Model: Rhino 40DS

Website: www.ChiappaFirearms.com

MSRP: \$775

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 8.5 inches

Weight: 30 ounces

Features: The 40DS fires from the bottom cylinder to lower the bore axis for better recoil management. It has a concealed hammer.



Smith & Wesson 586

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 586

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$809

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 6

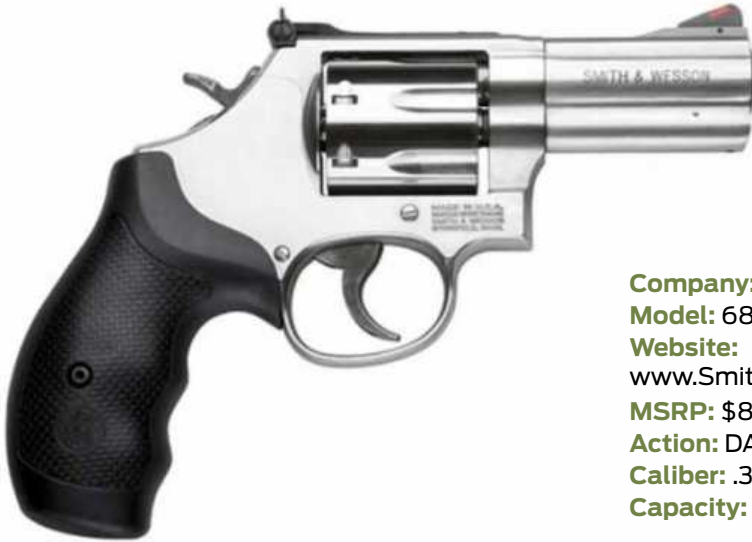
Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 9.25 inches

Weight: 41 ounces

Features: The 586 has a red ramp front sight, a comfortable grip, and fantastic accuracy potential.

[MEDIUM REVOLVERS]



Smith & Wesson 686 Plus

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 686 Plus

Website:

www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$809

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 7

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 8.18 inches

Weight: 41 ounces

Features: This model has a 3-inch barrel and a capacity of 7 rounds of .357 Magnum or .38 Special +P power.



Smith & Wesson 686

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 686

Website:

www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$829

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum,
.38 Special

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 8.18 inches

Weight: 41 ounces

Features: A 4-inch barrel and stainless steel construction make up this a great L-Frame revolver designed for heavy use.

Smith & Wesson Governor (4-inch Barrel)

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: Governor

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$869

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum, .38 Special

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 8.18 inches

Weight: 41 ounces

Features: This Governor model features a 4-inch barrel and stainless steel construction. The L-Frame revolver is designed for heavy use.





Smith & Wesson 586 L-COMP

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 586 L-COMP

Website:

www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$1,294

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 7

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Length: 8.18 inches

Weight: 41 ounces

Features: This Smith & Wesson has a 3-inch barrel and 7 rounds of .357 Magnum or .38 Special +P power with a full underlug barrel. Also, it sports a Tritium front sight and adjustable rear sight. **CC**

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FULL SIZE POWER

The full-sized revolver may not be everyone's first choice as a defensive handgun, but they do offer certain advantages over smaller revolvers.

Their larger frames are sturdy and will take repeated firings over a longer period of time. And for those that travel backwoods and hike in bear or mountain lion country, the full-sized revolver is the perfect defensive handgun in a reliable, short barreled, large caliber shooter, like the ones in this section.

You may decide it is your first choice after all.



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

[FULL-SIZED REVOLVERS]

[PRICE RANGE: LESS THAN \$1,000]

Comanche II-A Long Barrel .38 Special

Company: Comanche

Model: Comanche II-A Long Barrel .38 Special

Website:

www.ComanchePistols.com

MSRP: \$205

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .38 Special

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4

Length: 8.5 inches

Weight: 35 ounces

Features: This gun features an adjustable rear sight, rubber grips, an alloy frame and a barrel shroud. The Comanche II-A is available in blued or satin nickel finish.



Rossi R98106

Company: Rossi

Model: R98106

Website: www.RossiUSA.com

MSRP: \$408

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .22 LR

Capacity: 8

Barrel Length: 6 inches

Weight: 29.5 ounces

Features: The "Plinker" R98106 features an 8-round cylinder, rubber grips, an adjustable rear sight, fiber optic front sight, and comes in blued steel. 22 LR chambering is great for training.

Rossi R971

Company: Rossi

Model: R971

Website: www.RossiUSA.com

MSRP: \$465

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Weight: 32 ounces

Features: The R971 pistol features a ramped front sight and adjustable rear, with rubber grips and a blued finish. The gun fires +P loads.

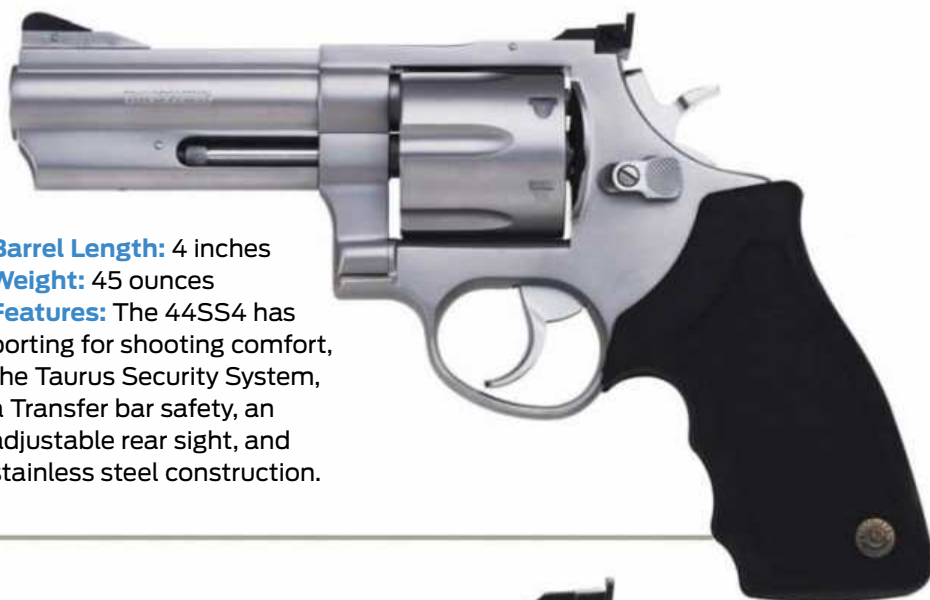




Ruger Redhawk

Company: Ruger
Model: Redhawk
Website: www.Ruger.com
MSRP: \$699
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .45 Long Colt, .45 ACP, .44 Magnum
Capacity: 6
Barrel Length: 4.20 inches

Length: 9.12 inches
Weight: 29.5 ounces
Features: Newly chambered in .45 ACP and .45 Long Colt, the Redhawk has stainless steel construction, with various types of grips, an adjustable rear sight and red ramp front sight.



Taurus 44SS4

Company: Taurus
Model: 44SS4
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$727
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 Magnum
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Weight: 45 ounces
Features: The 44SS4 has porting for shooting comfort, the Taurus Security System, a Transfer bar safety, an adjustable rear sight, and stainless steel construction.

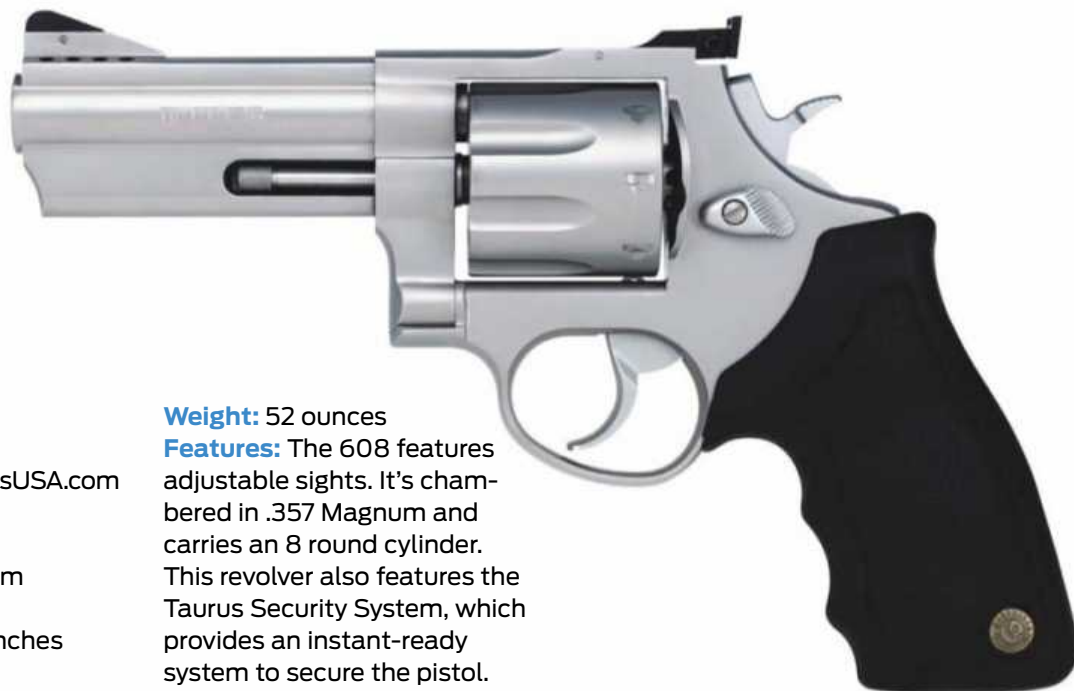


Taurus 44SS6

Company: Taurus
Model: 44SS6
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$742
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 Magnum
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 6.5 inches
Length: 11.6 inches
Weight: 52 ounces
Features: Taurus' model 44SS6 also has tuned porting, a vent rib barrel, molded recoil-absorbing grips, and an adjustable rear sight.

[FULL-SIZED REVOLVERS]



Taurus 608

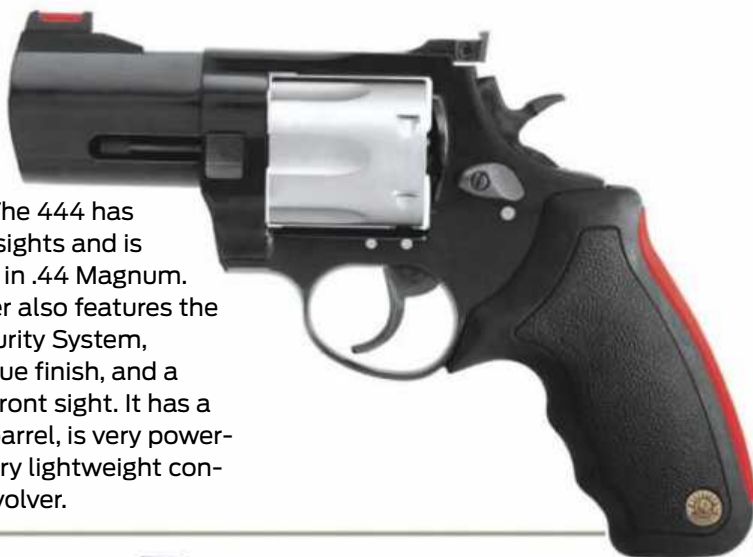
Company: Taurus
Model: 608
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$688
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .357 Magnum
Capacity: 8
Barrel Length: 6.5 inches
Length: 11.6 inches

Weight: 52 ounces
Features: The 608 features adjustable sights. It's chambered in .357 Magnum and carries an 8 round cylinder. This revolver also features the Taurus Security System, which provides an instant-ready system to secure the pistol.

Taurus 444 Ultralite .44 Magnum

Company: Taurus
Model: 444 Ultralite .44 Magnum
Website: www.TaurusUSA.com
MSRP: \$792
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .44 MAG
Capacity: 6
Barrel Length: 2.4 inches
Weight: 27 ounces

Features: The 444 has adjustable sights and is chambered in .44 Magnum. This revolver also features the Taurus Security System, Titanium Blue finish, and a fiber optic front sight. It has a very short barrel, is very powerful and a very lightweight concealable revolver.



Smith & Wesson 625 JM

Company: Smith & Wesson
Model: 625 JM
Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com
MSRP: \$979
Action: DA/SA
Caliber: .45 ACP
Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches
Length: 9.4 inches
Weight: 40 ounces
Features: The 625 JM has an adjustable rear sight, gold bead "Patridge" front sight, custom wooden grips, tuned action, and a large exposed hammer.

[PRICE RANGE: MORE THAN \$1,000]

Taurus Raging Judge .454 Casull

Company: Taurus

Model: Raging Judge
.454 Casull

Website: www.TaurusUSA.com

MSRP: \$1,038

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .44 Magnum

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2.4 inches

Length: 10.2 inches

Weight: 27 ounces

Features: This model has adjustable sights, and is chambered in .454 Casull. It also features the Taurus Security System, and a ported barrel to help with recoil control.



Smith & Wesson 325 Thunder Ranch

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: 325 Thunder Ranch

Website:

www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$1,329

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 4 inches

Length: 9.4 inches

Weight: 40 ounces

Features: The Thunder Ranch features an adjustable rear sight, gold bead "Patridge" front sight, Scandium frame, and stainless steel barrel and cylinder. It has Performance Center tuned action with a trigger stop.



Smith & Wesson M 629

Company: Smith & Wesson

Model: M 629

Website: www.Smith-Wesson.com

MSRP: \$1,329

Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .44 MAG

Capacity: 6

Barrel Length: 2.5 inches

Length: 7.6 inches

Weight: 39 ounces

Features: An adjustable rear sight, Performance Center tuned action, and an unfluted cylinder make up the M 629, which is chambered for the 44 Magnum. It's great power in a very small package.

[FULL-SIZED REVOLVERS]



Ruger Super Redhawk Alaskan

Company: Ruger
Model: Super Redhawk Alaskan
Website: www.Ruger.com
MSRP: \$1,119
Action: DA/SA

Caliber: .44 Magnum, .454 Casull, .480 Ruger
Capacity: 6
Barrel Length: 2.5 inches
Length: 7.62 inches
Weight: 45.5 ounces

Features: The Alaskan features triple-locked cylinder, which provides solid lockup for the most powerful cartridges. It has dual chambering: the .44 Magnum can fire .44 Special, and the .44 Casull can fire .45 Long colt. It comes with Hogue Monogrips for recoil absorption. **CC**

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TOP AMMUNITION CHOICES

Picking the right ammunition can be as important as choosing the right firearm. Depending on the use, the choices can range from plinking, to competition to self-defense. Even within those parameters, ammunition selection can be tailored for specific uses and functions, such as low recoil and deep or shallow penetration.

Next time you are shopping for ammunition, don't just grab the cheapest ammo on the shelf, take some time, do a little homework and make informed choices, like those we've assembled for you.



Hornady Critical Defense®

Caliber: Varies

Website: www.Hornady.com

Bullet Style: FTX bullet with Flex-Tip tech

Bullet Weight: Varies by caliber

Brand: Hornady

Muzzle Velocity: Varies by caliber

Designed for: Perfect for LE and defensive use as the FTX bullet provides deep penetration and controlled expansion.



Nosler Match Grade Handgun

Caliber: 9mm Luger, .40 S&W, .45 ACP

Website: www.Nosler.com

Bullet Style: JHP

Bullet Weight: Varies by caliber

Brand: Nosler

Muzzle Velocity: Varies by caliber

Designed for: Fills the needs of competitive and defensive handgunners.



Federal Gold Medal®

Caliber: .45 ACP

Website: www.FederalPremium.com

Bullet Style: JHP

Bullet Weight: 185 grains

Brand: Federal Premium Ammunition

Muzzle Velocity: 950 fps

Designed for: Made for LE and personal defense — the lighter 185 grain bullet makes recoil from smaller, lighter handguns more manageable.



Premium Personal Defense 410 Handgun

Caliber: .410 Shotshell

Website: www.FederalPremium.com

Bullet Style: .410 Shotshell

Bullet Weight: #4 Shot – 7/16 oz.

Brand: Federal Premium Ammunition

Muzzle Velocity: 950 fps

Designed for: Ideal for close range from handguns firing shotshells, such as the S&W Governor. Good for personal defense.



Guard Dog Home Defense

Caliber: Varies

Website: www.FederalPremium.com

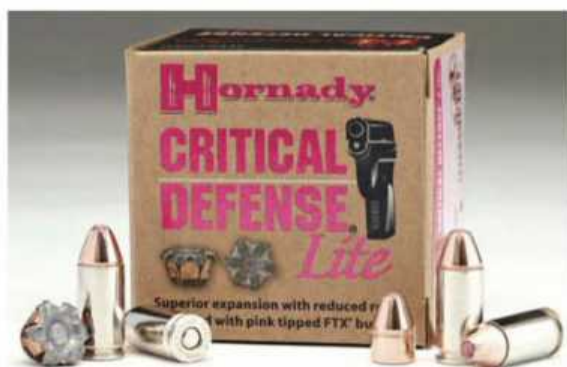
Bullet Style: Round Nose

Bullet Weight: Varies by caliber

Brand: Federal Premium Ammunition

Muzzle Velocity: Varies by caliber

Designed for: This personal defense ammunition is designed to expand, but not over penetrate. The bullet nose profile is similar to an FMJ, but it has a flat point for good expansion.



Hornady Critical Defense® Lite

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Website: www.Hornady.com

Bullet Style: FTX/JHP

Bullet Weight: 100 grains

Brand: Hornady

Muzzle Velocity: 1,125 fps

Designed for: A reduced recoil load delivers the same punch in a light recoiling package. A portion of the proceeds goes to fund breast cancer research.



Winchester PDX1 Defender

Caliber: .45 ACP

Website: www.Winchester.com

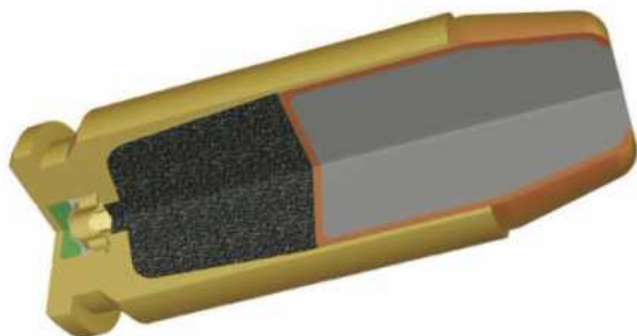
Bullet Style: JHP

Bullet Weight: 230 grain

Brand: Winchester

Muzzle Velocity: 882 fps

Designed for: Designed for CCW holders to provide similar ballistics out of the shorter barrels that concealable handguns usually have.



Winchester Win3Gun

Caliber: 9mm Luger, .40 S&W, .45 ACP

Website: www.Winchester.com

Bullet Style: FP

Bullet Weight: Varies by caliber

Brand: Winchester

Muzzle Velocity: Varies by caliber

Designed for: Specially engineered for 3-Gun competition, the lead-free primers and flat nose bullet profile feed reliably, and keep pistol compensators clean.



Remington Golden Saber

Caliber: .45 ACP +P

Website: www.Remington.com

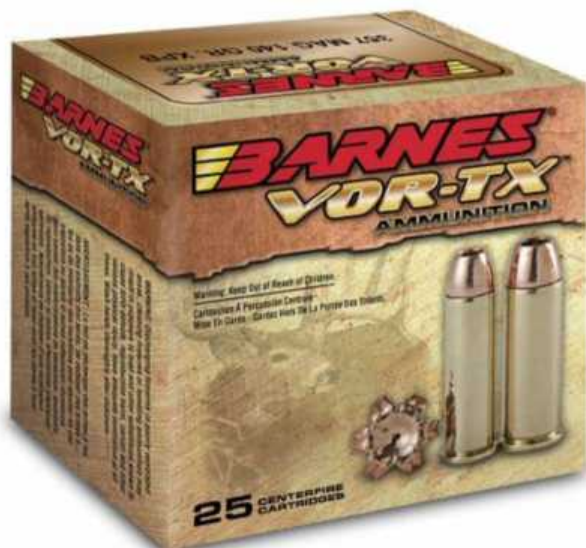
Bullet Style: HPJ

Bullet Weight: 230 grain

Brand: Remington

Muzzle Velocity: 1,140 fps

Designed for: This is a very powerful round in a major caliber. It's superbly accurate and functions flawlessly.



Barnes VOR-TX

Caliber: Varies

Website: www.BarnesBullets.com

Bullet Style: JHP

Bullet Weight: Varies by caliber

Brand: Barnes

Muzzle Velocity: Varies by caliber

Designed for: These are excellent bullets for use in hunting caliber handguns.



Barnes TAC-XPD

Caliber: .45 ACP +P

Website: www.BarnesBullets.com

Bullet Style: JHP

Bullet Weight: 185 grain

Brand: Barnes

Muzzle Velocity: 1,000 fps

Designed for: This is a great round for personal defense. All-copper bullets provide for good expansion and penetration. **CC**

[HOLSTERS]

GREAT GUNS DESERVE GREAT HOLSTERS

Holsters and firearms have a symbiotic relationship. If you carry a handgun for defensive purposes, you have to have a good holster, and the holster plays as much a part of concealing the CCW as does the choice of firearm. In fact, the holster may be more important than

the firearm itself because it provides the accessibility, speed and concealment factors when carrying concealed.

Holsters come in a large range of materials and styles so whether you're looking for Kydex, traditional leather or a combination of textiles, we've got an option to match.

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK



[**MATERIAL:** LEATHER]

Desantis Thumb Break Mini Slide

Company: Desantis

Model: Thumb Break Mini Slide

MSRP: \$73

Website: www.DesantisHolster.com

Description: Made from high quality saddle leather, this Desantis holster is constructed using double seams, and an ultra-close fit. For belts up to 1.75 inches wide.



Brownells Summer Special

Company: Brownells

Model: Summer Special

MSRP: \$100

Website: www.Brownells.com

Description: The Summer Special is a classic holster that's been around for decades for good reason. It has solid construction and an outstanding design.



Dillon Precision El Raton-DL 2" J-Frame S&W Revolver

Company: Dillon Precision

Model: El Raton-DL 2" J-Frame S&W Revolver

MSRP: \$50

Website: www.DillonPrecision.com

Description: Inside the waistband pocket holster carries the S&W J-framed revolvers in a very secure and concealable pouch that won't come out when the pistol is drawn.



Galco Combat Master Belt Holster

Company: Galco

Model: Combat Master Belt Holster

MSRP: \$88

Website: www.GalcoGunleather.com

Description: The open-top design offers a swift draw and presentation, while detailed molding provides secure retention. The butt-forward cant allows effective concealment of even a large defensive handgun. The Combat Master has an open muzzle and fits belts up to 1.75 inches.



[**MATERIAL:** KYDEX]

Galco Triton Kydex IWB Holster

Company: Galco

Model: Triton Kydex IWB Holster

MSRP: \$60

Website: www.GalcoGunleather.com

Description: The Triton, an all-Kydex holster, comes with a sweat guard to protect the gun's finish while carrying the gun inside the waistband. Ultra-thin construction offers more concealability.



Brownells CTAC IWB

Company: Brownells

Model: CTAC IWB

MSRP: \$81

Website: www.Brownells.com

Description: The CTAC IWB has Kydex construction and uses two 1.5-inch belt clips for solid retention.



Blade-Tech OWB Eclipse Ambi Holster

Company: Blade-Tech

Model: OWB Eclipse Ambi Holster

MSRP: \$80

Website: www.Blade-Tech.com

Description: This Blade-Tech Eclipse holster was designed with comfort and concealing in mind. Featuring a straight drop cant.



CrossBreed Holsters Appendix Carry

Company: CrossBreed Holsters

Model: Appendix Carry

MSRP: From \$63

Website: www.CrossBreedHolsters.com

Description: Available for dozens of handguns, this Appendix Carry puts the smallest handguns in a very concealable location, for super concealment. Excellent holster for the Glock 42.

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CrossBreed Holsters SuperTuck Deluxe

Company: CrossBreed Holsters

Model: SuperTuck Deluxe

MSRP: From \$70

Website: www.CrossBreedHolsters.com

Description: The SuperTuck is a super comfortable, versatile IWB holster worn comfortably with shirt tucked in or untucked.

[**MATERIAL:** SYNTHETIC AND SYNTHETIC MIX]



CrossBreed Holsters Bedside Backup

Company: CrossBreed Holsters

Model: Bedside Backup

MSRP: From \$74

Website: www.CrossBreedHolsters.com

Description: The Bedside Backup is a convenient and quick way to access the firearm while lying in bed. It keeps the firearms within easy reach and accessible. Its patented design works with a variety of holsters and firearms types.



Fobus Holsters SG-4

Company: Fobus Holsters

Model: SG-4

MSRP: From \$32

Website: www.FobusHolster.com

Description: The SG-4 is made for the Sig 229 series. This holster accepts the Sig line with or without rails. It also fits the Steyr Model-S in .357/9mm/40.



Safariland 5378 GLS Concealment Paddle & Belt Loop Combo

Company: Safariland Holsters

Model: 5378 GLS Concealment Paddle & Belt Loop Combo

MSRP: From \$53

Website: www.Safariland.com

Description: The 5378 GLS comes with the Safariland GLS Grip Lock System which provides for excellent retention and is finger-deactivated when drawing. It's available in a wide variety of belt slot openings and can be adjusted for cant or crossdraw. **CC**

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—Benjamin Franklin



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